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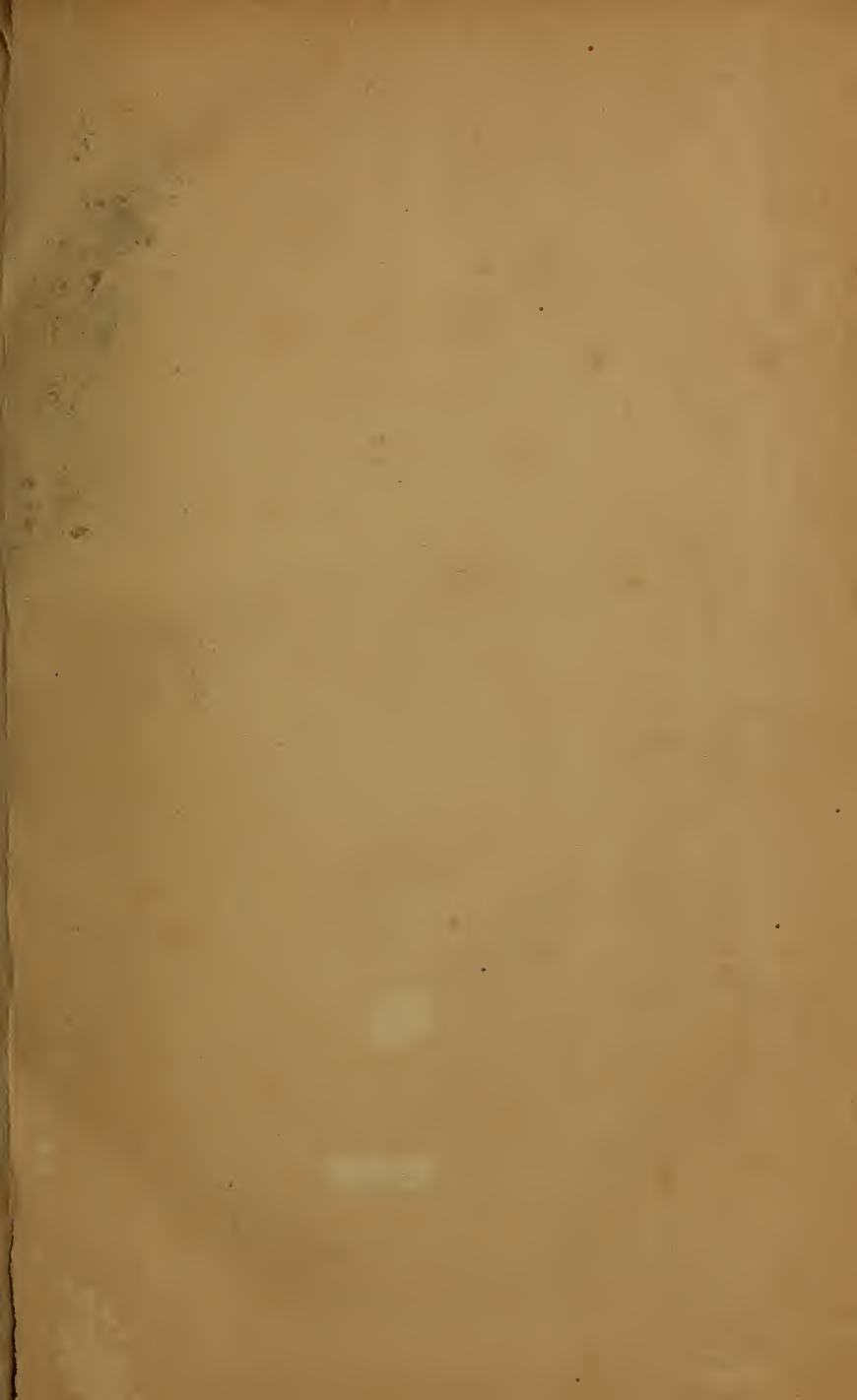
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# HISTORY

OF

## CARNARVON CASTLE,

AND THE

Antiquities of Carnarvon,

WITH A

GUIDE FOR THE TOURIST

TO THE SURROUNDING SCENERY.

BY WILLIAM PRITCHARD,

*of Carnarvon, Wales.*

THE HISTORY OF

THE CASTLE OF

CARNARVON:

W. PRITCHARD, HIGH STREET. LONDON: WHITTAKER AND  
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## HISTORY OF CARNARVON, &c.

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CARNARVON is situated on the eastern banks of the Menai, and is decidedly the largest and most important town in North Wales. The attraction of the Castle, one of the most magnificent old ruins in the Principality, draws numerous visitors during the summer season; and its superior trade and commerce, affording the means for a good supply of the general articles of consumption, render it a desirable residence. It is, in consequence, much frequented, and, owing to its excellent accommodation and healthy aspect, is daily becoming better known and appreciated.

The present town owes its origin to the ancient Segontium, called by the Welsh, Caer ar Fon, or the stronghold opposite to Anglesey. Segontium was situated about half a mile on the road leading towards Beddgelert, and the walls are still in existence. It was the principal station occupied by the Romans in Wales, and was mentioned by Antonius, as a Roman station. Giraldus Cambrensis records the fact that he passed through it on his journey in 1188; and Hugh, Earl of Chester, had a residence here, and erected a fortress in 1098, called Hên Caer Custenin. Llewelyn



the Great granted a charter to the Priory of Penmon, in Anglesey, and dated it from Carnarvon, in 1221.

Mathew Paris says, "the body of Constantius, the father of the great Constantine, was found at Segontium, and sumptuously interred by Edward I. in the church of the new citie, which he improved out of the ruins of the old, and is now called Carnarvon." It is said that Helena, the wife of Constantine, had a chapel at Segontium: indeed Rowlands, in his *Mona Antiqua*, asserts that the chapel had not been destroyed in his days. A well, bearing her name, is still in existence at Bryn Helen, near the Pwllheli road, and it is considered one of the finest springs of mineral water in these parts: in the neighbourhood it is famous for its healing qualities, and is used extensively in the manufacture of excellent soda-water. There are several places in this locality identified with the name of Helen, viz., Coed Helen or Helen's wood, Tyddyn Helen or Helen's farm or tenement. Segontium was evidently placed on the summit of a rising ground, sloping down on every side, forming an oblong of very considerable extent, and occupying about six acres of ground. In several parts are vestiges of ancient walls, and in one place appears the remnant of a building made with tiles, and plastered with very hard and smooth mortar: this seems to have been part of an hypocaust; the mortar in all parts is quite hard, and mixed with gravel and sand. The fortress was long the residence of the British Princes. Cadwallon, the son of Cadfan, had a residence here about A.D. 620; and on account of Anglesey being infested by the Irish and Pictish rovers, he removed the British Court from Aberffraw to Segontium.

The present public road passes through the midst of the ancient station. Near the steep bank of the River Seiont was a Roman fort; on two sides the walls are pretty entire; one is 74 yards long, the other, which leads to the river, 64, the height 10 feet

8 inches, the thickness 6 feet; much of the facing is taken away, and the peculiarity of the Roman masonry is thus shewn. It consists of regular courses, the others having the stones placed in zigzag fashion. Along the walls are three parallel lines of round holes, about three inches in diameter, nicely plastered within, which pass through the whole thickness. Other similar holes are to be seen in the end of the wall, and they appear to run through it lengthways. Near the corner of one of the walls is a heap of stones, the ruins of a tower, discovered some years ago. It was paved, and in it were found the horn of a deer, and the skeletons of some smaller animals.

A pot full of coins, buried under a tree, was found here some years ago; but to what age they referred is not ascertained, neither is it known to whom the coins were given.

A gold coin was also discovered here, inscribed *T DIVI AVG FIL AUGUSTUS*, and in digging the foundation of Cefn Hendref, in 1827, several valuable coins and relics were discovered. A thin piece of gold was found by the Rev. J. W. Trevor, then Vicar of the Parish, 4 inches long and 1 inch broad, inscribed with mystic characters, principally Greek of the second century. The names and epithets shew it to be a Basildian Talisman. It may now be seen in the Museum at Carnarvon.

A stone, which once formed part of a wall near the road, contained the following inscription, *SVC*, supposed by some to mean *Segontium Urbs Constantine*. It was there for many years, but has for some time been removed.

Camden was of opinion, that the ancient Roman city, called by Antoninus "*Segontium*," was situated near Carnarvon, which opinion is fully confirmed by antiquaries of the present day.

This once famous Roman fortress has now gone to decay; but its site may easily be recognised by a very

slight inspection, from the elevated nature of the ground and the remains of the old walls; and to make its identity more clear, coins and other interesting relics of bye-gone days have at various times been discovered. During the year 1845, the new vicarage then being built upon this very interesting and picturesque site, gave a fresh impetus to the lovers of antiquarian lore to commence a systematic search (permission having been kindly granted by the Vicar); and to further this laudable object, James Dearden, Esq., F.A.S., the Rev. R. P. Mealy, Robert Jones, Esq., surgeon, and others, contributed liberally. The result from the very onset proved, in every respect, satisfactory; and for a time created a great interest in Carnarvon and the neighbourhood. A large suite of apartments were brought to light, supposed to have been baths; besides the foundations, concrete floors, &c., of other buildings: and, in addition, a holocaust, in a fine state of preservation. Ground plans of the remains may be inspected by referring to the 1st Vol. of the *Arch. Cambrensis*. Coins, rings, fibulæ, fragments of inscriptions, pottery, vases, &c., were found in abundance. The coins (upwards of 100) belong to the several reigns of Vespasian, Severus, Domitian, Maximianus, Constantine, Caurausius, Valens, &c., and are in a high state of preservation. The fragment of of one slab, 18 inches by 5 inches, bears the following inscription:—

SEP SEVERVS PIVS PER  
VRE ANTONINVS

Tradition says that Segontium was burnt down, but the time uncertain. This was confirmed during the late excavations; for, at an average depth of two feet from the surface, a complete stratum of burnt wood was discovered, mingled with fragments of broken slates, pottery, nails, &c.

This interesting spot was finally closed up again, after drawings had been taken of the whole; and it



will remain for ages yet to come, to impart fresh pleasure in further inspection; and to bear witness to the fact that Vandalism was almost extinct in the nineteenth century.

The ancient town continued in existence until 1288, when it was dismantled by Edward I., part of the ruins being used for the building of the castle.

There are several other Roman encampments in the neighbourhood, communicating by a raised military road, paved with stones, such as Dinas Dinoethwy, and Dinas Dinlle, on the road towards Pwllheli; Craig y Dinas, near Llanllyfni; and Dinas Dinorwic, in the parish of Llanddeiniolen, near the Church. The area of the latter is very large, surrounded with an aggar of small stones, backed by another of very large ones; then succeed a deep ditch, a rampart of earth, a second ditch, and a third rampart. Within the area is a circle of stones, the post, probably, of the commander-in-chief. There are several other smaller posts close by, viz., Pen y Gaer, Bryn y Castrelau, Caer Cwm y Glo, &c. Communication was conveyed from these by means of beacons, or fire-signals.

The site on which the present town is built, was either part of Segontium, or a town by itself, it being called Caer ar Fon, or the stronghold opposite to Anglesey, an apt designation, when it is considered as a place of defence. The name probably arose from the several conquests gained by the Welsh over their enemies; more particularly, perhaps, from that severe encounter, commanded by Prince Owen Gwynedd, and the signal victory obtained by him over three combined fleets of Irish, Danish, and Norman pirates, about the year 1158. This victory was celebrated in an ode, by an ancient poet, Gwalchmai ab Meilir. The following passage from the original, translated by David Thomas (or Dafydd Ddu o Eryri), will serve to convey an idea of the horrors of the carnage:—

The crimson flood of warrior gore,  
 O'erflowed old Menai's sanguin'd shore ;  
 And rippling streams (from side to side)  
 Swell'd high with blood the briny tide.

The poet Gray has a spirited version of the Rev. Evan Evan's translation of this ode, which is too long for insertion ; a part, however, is subjoined, which will serve as a specimen.

Owen's praise demands my song,  
 Owen swift and Owen strong ;  
 Fairest flower of Roderick's stem,  
 Gwynedd's shield, and Britain's gem.  
 In glittering arms and glory drest,  
 High he rears his ruby crest.  
 There the thundering strokes begin,  
 There the press, and there the din ;  
 Tal y Moelfra's\* rocky shore,  
 Echoing to the battle's roar.  
 Check'd by the torrent tide of blood,  
 Backward Menai rolls its flood ;  
 While, heap'd the hero's feet around,  
 Prostrate warrior's gnaw the ground.

Wales was the scene of many fierce struggles from the dawn of the christian era ; and maintained unequal conflicts with other nations for upwards of twelve centuries. She also bore a conspicuous part in the battles of the Roman, the Saxon, the Dane, and the Norman. This part of the Principality contains many mouldering monuments of past ages. It was famed for the triumphs of the sword, the prizes of the lyre, and was the stronghold of genuine British valour. It required the lapse of ages, and the combined power of nations, to weaken the strength of the Britons in the mountain fastnesses ; and they at last yielded only on condition of being governed by a prince, born in the country. The eldest sons of British kings have, ever since, taken the name of Prince of Wales as the proudest of their titles.

The patriotic bards wrote boldly ; and commemo-

\* Supposed to be Tal y Foel, as it is now called.

rated the struggles of their countrymen in enthusiastic strains, which often brought down the signal vengeance of the royal invaders.

It is not necessary in this work to enter fully into the history of Wales; a short account, however, of the life of the last Llewelyn, may not prove uninteresting, as having reference to the history of Carnarvon; particularly as it was to maintain the conquest, achieved on the death of Llewelyn, that Carnarvon Castle was erected,

Llewelyn ap Gruffydd commenced his reign in 1246, and succeeded his uncle, Prince David. He was as brave as well as an ingenuous prince. His bold and able movements against a powerful and overwhelming enemy, his great patriotism and love for his country, fully entitle him also to be called the Great. It is said that a number of brilliant actions, during the minority of Edward I., gave rise to personal animosity in that prince against him; and that a continuation of them during his reign, caused him to remain his bitter enemy.

That he was an amiable prince, and one capable of the strongest affections, is fully proved in his continued attachment to the object of his early choice, Eleanor de Mountford, daughter of the Earl of Leicester, for a long series of years; and by the fact that, during her detention at the English Court, he offered a large sum for her ransom. His negotiation, however, failed, which exasperated Llewelyn to take up fresh arms. On this occasion he marched through the English borders, spreading terror and devastation in every direction. The able movements of Llewelyn caused Edward to bear down upon the country the whole strength of his military talents. Llewelyn, after many fruitless efforts, and seeing his countrymen perishing by famine, was compelled to throw himself on the mercy of his enemy. The most harsh and humiliating terms were exacted, one of which was that he should



attend the conqueror to London, and there do homage before the assembled nobles and prelates ; he was also required to pay 50,000 marks, as a compensation for the injuries he had committed. On his restoration again to favour, this amount was returned to him. At this time, while at the English Court, he again beheld her whom he loved ; and upon entering into a contract to appear twice a year before the English Parliament, his marriage was at length celebrated on the 13th October, 1278, graced by the presence of the king himself and his queen.

Llewelyn, soon after this ratification of his marriage, retired into Wales. An interval of about two years of peace succeeded this event, as the amiable qualities of his bride tended to soothe the irritated feelings of both parties. At the end of this time the tie which bound them together was suddenly broken, by the lamented death of Eleanor, who expired in giving birth to a daughter, in the year 1280. The grief of Llewelyn knew no bounds ; and the lament of his favourite bards on this occasion are touching in the extreme, for she had endeared herself to all around her.

The stern relentless policy which Edward exercised towards Llewelyn, and his continued determination to alter the institutions and customs of the country, excited the discontent of the nobles, and was considered by them oppressive ; added to which, suits at law against Llewelyn and his brother David were always decided in favour of the English claimants. They were also repeatedly summoned to appear in person, at different places, to receive judgment ; such commands being issued more in a spirit of hostility and hatred than from any necessity. Llewelyn, after the death of his consort, refused to obey them ; and from that time a spirit of general resistance to the English laws was manifested. In 1281, David, Llewelyn's brother, withdrew from the English Court, and coming into Wales, opened the campaign by a gallant

exploit at Hawarden Castle, on Palm Sunday, March 22nd, 1282. He surprised the castle, put the garrison to the sword, and took prisoner Roger de Clifford, Justiciary of Chester. After this action, the brothers united their forces, took the castles of Flint and Rhuddlan, the only fortresses then in the possession of the English. The Welsh, rising in every quarter, were instantly in arms; and the national vengeance was carried on as far as the English borders. The king was made acquainted with this fresh outbreak, and the extent of the evil, at Devizes, where he was keeping Easter. It is said that, in the vehemence of his passion, he swore that nothing less than the entire subjugation of Llewelyn should henceforth satisfy him. He wrote to the two Archbishops, requiring them to excommunicate the Welsh Princes and their adherents, and to denounce the most terrible maledictions of the church against them. The effect of this cursing remained against Llewelyn even after his death, for he was refused christian burial. His body lay unburied for some time; and the rite of interment was only granted after the corpse had received absolution from the Archbishop of Canterbury, upon the supposition that he had shewed signs of repentance, during his last moments, by asking for a priest.

In 1282, Edward marched towards Chester; and, in June, took the castle of Hope, in Flintshire. He, however, made but little progress until the close of the year. The measures of Llewelyn were all well arranged; and, although opposed against the powerful army of Edward, supported by Gaston de Bern, and other foreign auxiliaries, he was able to repel them for a considerable time. Of the difficulties and duration of this war, Edward seems to have had many doubts, so much so, that he removed the Barons of the Exchequer, and the Judges of the King's Bench, to hold their courts at Shrewsbury; he also deputed the Archbishop of Canterbury to come into Wales, to intervene

his good offices, and to entreat Llewelyn to make an immediate surrender. The Prince's reply is worthy of record. He said, "that, as the guardian of the people's safety, his conscience alone should direct his submission; nor would he consent to any compliance which might derogate from the dignity of his station." This memorable answer being repeated, Edward reiterated his resolution to compel the Prince to submit without any conditions.

During his negotiations, Llewelyn was at his palace at Aber, a romantic old residence in front of a mountain pass, part of his army being stationed on Penmaen Mawr, a very high promontory, from which the approach to Conway could be seen for many miles. This was always a very important and strong fortification, being capable of containing 20,000 men. Some of the walls were nine feet high and about seven feet thick: between these walls were innumerable small buildings, mostly circular, and regularly faced within and without; and in most places the facings are still very perfect, but all of dry work. It was inaccessible by its natural steepness toward the sea, consequently judiciously chosen to protect the passage into Anglesey, &c. This fortification is well worthy the attention of the traveller, both on account of its antiquities and beauty of prospect from the summit of the mountain.

In November, 1282, Edward secured Conway, and stationed his army in advantageous situations; and by means of the vessels of the Cinque Ports secured Anglesey. He then endeavoured to pass the Menai Straits to obtain possession of the mountains; and, to accomplish this, he made a bridge of boats, wide enough for sixty men to walk abreast. The Welsh, on the Carnarvon side, threw up vast intrenchments. Before the bridge was quite completed, a party of the English, some Gascon lords, and a body of Spanish troops, commanded by Luke de Tany, passed at low water: they were suffered to advance; but, as soon



as the river had risen, the nearest body of the Welsh, commanded by Richard ab Walwyn, rushed from their position, and routed them with great slaughter. The general of the army, fifteen knights, thirty-two esquires, and one thousand soldiers, are said to have thus perished in the Menai.\*

Edward was thus constrained to return to his stronghold, the Castle of Rhuddlan; as, in the depth of winter, he had no chance of success. Neither was Llewelyn at all sanguine as to the result of his operations; not deeming himself sufficiently strong to assume the offensive. Leaving, therefore, his brother in possession of the Snowdon pass and camp, he, by a night march, eluded the enemy and gained the South; he soon overran the territories of Cardigan and Strath Towi, and arrived in the territories of Buillt, where he held a conference with certain Lords of the Marches. Here he was secure from the southern quarter, but his anxiety was to secure the pass into the country by the north; he, therefore, posted his main army on a mountain near the Wye, and placed a body of troops at Pont Arewyn. Being thus secured from any fear of surprise, he entered the valley unarmed, and attended only by his squire, to meet several Lords. Immediately after his departure, Sir Edward Mortimer, with a strong force, attacked the bridge, while Walwyn, a native of the country, pointed out to the enemy a passage a little lower down the river, called Cefn Twm Bach. Llewelyn, meanwhile, was waiting, in a small grove, about three miles from Buillt, where he had appointed an interview with his border chiefs: while wondering at their non-appearance, his squire ran towards him, informing him that he heard a great clamour at the bridge. Before he could gain any certain information, the grove was surrounded by the enemy's

\* Near this spot, it is said, a castle was built by Aelodd, King of Dublin; and here Suetonius landed his army, and Agricola passed over into Anglesey.

horse. In attempting to escape, he was pursued by Adam de Francton, an English knight, who perceiving him to be a Welshman, though ignorant of his quality, plunged a spear into his body, and left him for dead on the field. Alone and expiring, he continued for about three hours, during which time the contest remained doubtful; his followers, though not cheered by his presence, fought bravely, and although eventually conquered, it was not until two thousand were left dead upon the field.

It is evident that in this instance, Llewelyn was betrayed, though by what means, or by whom, has never been ascertained; for the storming of the bridge, and other movements, immediately upon his entering the valley, leave no doubt upon the subject.

When Llewelyn was found, life was almost extinct, and he had scarcely strength to ask for a priest. On the approach of his opponents it was discovered, to the great joy of the English party, that the dying person was no other than the Prince of Wales. As soon as he expired, his head was cut off by Adam de Francton, and taken to the king, who was then at the Abbey of Conway. The place of this tragedy is called to this day Cwm Llewelyn.

By fraud, by malice, and by force oppress'd,  
The best and bravest of our princes fell;  
Gallant Llewelyn sinks to endless rest,  
And sighs to liberty a last farewell!

Thus died Llewelyn, on the 11th December, 1282, after a reign of thirty-six years, and in the eleventh of Edward I., leaving behind him only one daughter. With him died the Marchers of Wales, as Edward took the Principality into his own hands, gave it to his son, Edward II., and made him Prince of Wales.

As soon as Edward received the head of Llewelyn, he directed it to be sent to London, commanding it to be placed upon the pillory in Cheapside. It was then fixed on the point of a spear and carried through the



streets by a horseman, and was afterwards placed on the highest turret of the Tower of London, where it remained for some time.

Heroic Prince! when o'er Carnarvon waved  
The crimson flag of conquest, and the pomp  
Of festal sports—when yon proud castle rung  
To Edward's triumph—thy insulted head,  
Gaze of vile crowds, stood on Augustus' tower,  
With ivy wreath and silver diadem  
Adorn'd, in mockery of Brutus old,  
And Merlin's mystic verse.

SOTHEBY.

Mr. Warrington says, in his History of Wales, "The historians of the times are silent respecting the character or the personal qualities of this prince, but the manner of his life was the best illustration of his conduct. Had his valour, his talent, and his patriotism been exercised upon a more splendid theatre, or his every action not endeavoured to be buried in oblivion by his conqueror, and every monumental record tending to preserve his memory, or perpetuate his fame and glory, left to decay by the vindictive spirit of policy, his name would have been recorded in the classic page, and his memory revered as an illustrious hero, and as a gallant assertor of the rights of nature."

His countrymen, however, were not backward in pouring their tears upon the tomb of their fallen sovereign. An elegy, in Welsh, composed by his favourite bard, Gruffydd ab Ynad Coch, who lived in his Court, in wild and plaintive notes, and with a seeming prophetic spirit, finely expresses their sorrow and despair. The substance of it will be found embodied in the following beautiful poem, by a celebrated Welsh poet, Mr. Ebenezer Thomas, of Clynog, composed by him, in English, expressly for this work, and which may serve as a specimen of the talent of the bards of Wales.

Sing Muse! of Edward, whom no art could foil,  
Who sacked our country and usurped our soil;  
Caused martial deeds in *Wallia's* ears to ring,  
Who prostrate fell before the warrior king.

Sing of Llewelyn's deeds and brilliant fame,  
 By name a "Lion" and by heart the same;  
 Like that brave ancestor who erst withstood  
 Firm as a granite rock Rome's warlike flood;  
 Even Caractacus, prince of high renown,  
 Who fought the world to save the British Crown:  
 For nine long years, he backward pushed his foes,  
 And parried off proud Rome's imperial blows!  
 So rose Llewelyn, but not so his fate,  
 Both fell, but one survived his victor's hate;  
 One in a Roman chain wore glory's wreath,  
 The other languished in the chain of Death!

Thus sung his bard, who spoke the public mind,\*  
 "What woe and wailing float on every wind?  
 Such as in days of yore from Camlan rose,  
 To indicate the triumph of our foes!  
 Deep furrowed cheeks, seem like you mountain rills,  
 So many streamlets which the tear befills;  
 Dire desolation! 'tis our Prince that fell,  
 Even nature strives th'attendant woes to tell!  
 Majestic forests quail, and ocean sighs,  
 The sun glares strangely through yon lurid skies!  
 The rolling planets vibrate with the shock,  
 And night enshrouds Snowdonia's dreary rock;  
 In vain I call for vengeance on the foe,  
 Who durst effect my country's overthrow;  
 In vain I look along these wilds, so dread!  
 For one green spot to rest my aching head;  
 There's not in Cambria's gory fields, a sod  
 Which has not by the unhallowed foe been trod!"

But though alas! the Prince had fallen too low,  
 To hear the plaudits of a generous foe,  
 Or those thrill lays sung by his native bard,  
 To him as leader of the vanquished guard,  
 Though this he heard not, yet has he for praise  
 Five centuries' accumulated lays,  
 Which swell like ocean in o'erwhelming tide,  
 Of native fondness and of native pride,  
 Till bygone homage's undulating wave,  
 Breaks forth in requiems o'er his hallowed grave.

Sing of Carnarvon, where the bold Longshanks  
 Stamped with his conquering foot on Menai's banks,  
 His heart elate, his mighty spirit high,  
 With martial prowess beaming from his eye,  
 Here he conceived his castle-building plans,  
 To overawe our oft-revolting clans,  
 And to repel th' impetuous, desperate rush  
 Of the brave nation which he sought to crush.

\* This refers to the bard's lament, by Griffith ab Ynad Coch.

Here summoned he his vassals at his will,  
 To join to arms their architectural skill,  
 Who round vast areas built the bastioned wall,  
 To cover camps within the spacious hall.  
 Then waved, Carnarvon, flags of regal pride  
 From lofty towers, reflected in the tide  
 Of wondering Menai, which had ne'er before,  
 Huge images like these to waft ashore.

Though Welsh dominions with Llewelyn fell,  
 'Twas dawn of better days, as annals tell;  
 For when smooth Wye saw native kingship close,  
 Some prosperous dynasties on Menai rose,  
 Long on whose banks the Eagle Tower shall stand  
 As index to the history of our land.

After the death of Llewelyn, his brother David, considering himself the sovereign of Wales, made an attempt to defend his country. The great depression of his countrymen, consequent upon the death of Llewelyn, and on their want of union and promptness, gave advantages to Edward, of which he quickly availed himself, and soon became master of the rugged defiles of the mountains. David was taken prisoner and confined in Rhuddlan Castle, and afterwards sent in chains to Shrewsbury, where he was tried, and doomed to die as a traitor. There was something singular in the sentence pronounced against him; he was condemned to four species of punishment,—to be drawn at the tail of a horse to the place of execution, to be hanged, his bowels to be burnt, his body to be quartered and hung in different parts of the kingdom. This sentence, cruel in the extreme, was executed in all its severity. His head was afterwards sent to the Tower of London, and placed on a pole near the head of his brother Llewelyn. With the death of this unfortunate prince closed the sovereignty of Wales. The remarks of Mr. Warrington shall close this account of the conquest of the country.

“The fate of nations, distinguished only by misfortune, or only illustrious by conquest, may raise for a moment a sigh of pity, or the transient effusion of applause. But a people like the Welsh, satisfied with

their mountains, who had been forced into a long and unequal contest, in defence of their native rights, with few other resources than their valour and a fond attachment to their liberties, though falling in the ruins of their country, will have a claim on the esteem, and excite the admiration of the world, as long as manly sentiment and freedom shall remain."

Upon the death of Llewelyn and David, Edward immediately took measures to secure the conquest obtained, before the Welsh could arouse themselves out of the state of insensibility into which they had sunk. He then commanded, from Conway, the several Marches of South Wales to provide victuals for the support of his army.

The country being thus subdued, as a check to any further incursions, Edward built the Castles of Carnarvon and Conway, and repaired the churches that had been damaged in the late wars; with a view to conciliate the Welsh clergy, he redressed their greivances; and, as a reward to the English nobility who had served him in the late war, he gave the Lordship of Denbigh to the Earl of Lincoln, and the Lordship of Ruthin to the Lord Reginald de Grey; he also gave estates to many other of the English Barons. He likewise erected Carnarvon and other towns into corporations, endowing them with great privileges, to encourage trade; and, in order to allure the Welsh from their mountains and wilder habits into a more social manner of living, he divided North Wales into Counties, appointed Sheriffs, Coroners, &c., and County Sheriffs' Courts. Edward also took up his residence at the Castle of Rhuddlan, and issued a proclamation to all the inhabitants of Wales, that he would receive them under his protection; and thence he issued a code of laws, called the "Statutes of Rhuddlan." He reduced also the rents of the inhabitants considerably.

As a judicious warrior, Edward saw the necessity of maintaining the position and power he had obtained;







Engraved by J. H. Sturges from a drawing by J. H. Sturges.

Dunbar

and, therefore, caused the castles of Carnarvon and Conway to be erected. Two more eligible spots could not, perhaps, have been selected, as their position was admirably adapted for the purpose intended. Carnarvon Castle was commenced in the beginning of the year 1283, and, was built upon a rock. It is not certain how long a time was taken in its erection; some assert it was built in about two years, while others say it occupied twelve years; but it has recently been discovered that it was building during a space of near forty years. That it was built at various periods may easily be seen, by observing the difference in the masonry on the external side. it must, however, have progressed to a very great extent in the space of a year and a half, for the Queen was confined, in the Eagle Tower, in April, 1284. It might have been left for many years unfinished, if indeed it was ever properly completed, owing to the various small outbreaks that occurred. The public records show that it was repaired and enlarged in the reign of Edward II. Whatever time was taken in its erection, one thing is certain, that the task fell upon the inhabitants, and the labour of the peasants was demanded for the work.

Henry Ellerton, or de Ellerton, was the architect and master-mason of the castle, and must have been a very superior architect in his time; no doubt he had several skilful assistants, as a more beautiful edifice, of its size and kind, has never been erected. The outer walls are of a dark grey stone, with an edging of red ones round the windows; many of the materials were brought from Segontium, the limestone from Twr Celyn, in Anglesey, and the gritstone, from Vaynol, in this county, by means of the Menai Straits.

The walls still retain much of the character that they had in the time of Edward, and were built, as was customary in those days, by means of a kind of liquid cement, instead of with mortar, as in the present day. It has never been exactly ascertained what was the

kind of liquid used ; it was something that became very hard in a short space of time. It is supposed that the inner and outer walls were duly erected in proper order, and the middle part filled up at random with loose stones, and then the liquid poured in, which permeated the whole, and filling up all the crevices, cemented it together in one solid mass. There is no doubt that much time was saved by this process, which may account in some degree for the brief period in which the castle is said to have been erected. The walls, upon the average, are about 7 feet 9 inches thick.

The entrance into the castle is very august, being beneath a great tower, in the front of which appears a statue of the founder, with a half-drawn sword in his hand, either as if menacing his newly-acquired subjects, or as sheathing his sword, indicating that peace was restored.

Where ! ye now astonished cry—  
Where does mighty Edward lie ;  
He that gave these ramparts birth,  
When prostrate Cambria leaned on earth ?  
Here still his image, raised on high,  
Attracts the thoughtful, curious, eye ;  
But he, long humbled, from a throne,  
Lies far beneath a massy stone.\*

The gate had four portcullisses and every requisite of strength, having inner as well as outer doors ; the inner doors were made of iron, and could be raised and lowered at pleasure. The entrance, inside, is very beautiful ; and the huge irons, on which the hinges of the door rested, are plainly to be seen. The court, according to present appearance, is oblong, but in former days it must have been divided, as there are evident traces of its having been so by means of gates or otherwise ; there appear, also, many arches, walls, &c., commenced, which, in all probability, were never completed. It is asserted, but with what truth cannot now be

\* Sir Davydd Trevor, Rector of Llanallgo, 1840.



ascertained, that the part next the Eagle Tower was the place of tournament, whilst the upper part was the grand keep, the foundation of which is buried by the soil in the elevated part of the ground.

The towers are very beautiful and vary in form; some being pentagonal, others hexagonal, and octagonal. The Eagle Tower is decidedly the finest and more lofty than the rest, and has the addition of three angular turrets issuing from the top, with eagles thereon, which are supposed to be Roman, and whence it takes its name.

The Eagle Tower may be easily ascended, as the stone steps are all perfect up to the top. To the curious in these matters we may state, that there are 158 steps to the top of this tower; it is, however, unfortunately the only tower in the castle that is perfect. The top of two of the turrets cannot be reached without climbing, and much danger, requiring more nerve than is, perhaps, possessed by the majority of visitors to the castle. No person, however, should omit ascending the Eagle Tower, as the scene from the top will amply repay the exertion. The view of Snowdon, and the other mountains, and the Irish Channel and surrounding scenery, is most magnificent.

A short distance up the Eagle Tower, and deviating from the regular steps, leads you along a narrow winding passage to the room, said to be the one in which the Prince of Wales was born, 25th April, 1284; it is a dark room, about 12 feet long and 8 feet broad. Pennant says, in speaking of this apartment, that royalty in those days did not consult either pomp or convenience. In all probability this room was not the worst place in which Queen Eleanor was located in her travels with her husband. It was made as convenient as possible, being hung with tapestry, which was first introduced into England by Queen Eleanor, and traces of its suspension are still apparent

in the room. It was, also, a very secure place, apart from all noise and tumult, and could only be reached by those acquainted with the castle. The room, in the present day, is rendered sufficiently notorious by the various and numerous initials and names which now almost completely cover its walls.

The Eagle Tower is very extensive, and its walls are two feet thicker than the other parts of the castle. It had a pretty entrance from the water side, the door of which is still in existence. The tower is a noble one, containing many curious places of antiquity, and must formerly have consisted of many apartments; four stories are distinctly to be seen, as the numerous fire-places and chimney-pieces clearly indicate. The floorings were formed over an arch, covered with concrete, and strewn over with rushes. This tower, like other parts of the castle, has suffered from the lapse of ages and the ravages of the times; and, at some period during the various wars, must have been burnt, as the flooring and roofing are all consumed; there are still, however, left in it traces of a regularity and a grandeur which other parts of the castle do not appear to have possessed.

The large square building on the west side, close to the Eagle Tower, appears to have comprised the state apartments, and has a superior front, with spacious windows, very elegant for the times. Some have supposed it to have been the chapel; that, however, is not likely, as the chapel, in connection with the garrison, was in the middle of the town. It has a long gallery leading to it, the finest and most perfect in the castle, of which about 70 yards is entire.

The Queen's, or Eleanor's Gate, at the upper end of the castle, opposite the Eagle Tower, is so called from the circumstance of Queen Eleanor having entered by that way. It may appear in these days, according to the great depth of the ground, as if no entrance could have been effected that way. It must,

however, be borne in mind that the ground opposite the Green Gate was formerly very high, and a very high bank existed opposite the Queen's Gate, upon which the drawbridge was let down. That it was a regular entrance, and used as such, is evident from the fact of the now existing traces of portcullisses, double-gates, &c., which are as discernable as are those of the other gateway. The entrance by the Queen's Gate is very pretty and commanding from the outside; the inside, owing to the high bank opposite, loses much of its grandeur.

The walls of the castle are everywhere very thick, and have within their thickness a most convenient gallery, with narrow slits for the discharge of arrows, and these slits are so constructed, widening to the inside, that several parties might discharge their arrows from them in succession, aiming at the enemy, whilst their opponents could only endeavour to hit the narrow slits; and should the arrow be so directed as to pass through the aperture, it could only strike the opposite wall, whilst those within could take deliberate aim.

The dungeons of the castle must have been numerous; there are several now to be seen. The largest is on the east side, of great depth, in a tower between the Gateway and the Queen's Gate; this is supposed to have been the principal one, or worst of its kind. It has been conjectured, but with what truth is uncertain, that there was formerly a subterranean passage under ground from the castle to the Coed Helen wood opposite. The only person of note said to have been confined in the castle was Mr. Prynne, a barrister and antiquarian, in the reign of Charles I. The castle was well supplied with water, conveyed by means of leaden pipes, admirably arranged at the time of building, grooves being made in the walls for the pipes to pass through, which are still to be seen, the leaden



pipes shewing themselves very plainly on the eastern side, between the Gateway and the Eagle Tower, coming through the walls, and in this place depositing the water into a large stone cistern outside; there are also traces inside, close by, of a deep place like a well, which has every appearance of having been used for that purpose, as there are steps leading down to it. Adjacent, on the outside, has been recently discovered a well, neatly built and rounded, which is now uncovered, and may be plainly seen.

The first Governor of the Castle was John de Havering, with a salary of 200 marks, for which he was obliged to maintain constantly, beside his own family, four score men, of which fifteen were to be cross bowmen, one chaplain, one surgeon, and one smith; the rest were to do the duty of keepers of the gates, sentinels, &c. In 1284 Sir Roger de Puleston was constable, and in 1289 Adam de Wetenhall was appointed governor, and afterwards Sir Rowland Brittagne. The Constable of the Castle had sometimes 60*l.*, and at other times only 40*l.*

The Captain of Town had 12*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* for his annual fee, but this office was sometimes annexed to the former, and then the fee was 60*l.* for both. The constable and the captain had 24 soldiers for the defence of the place, at the wages of 4*d.* per day, amounting to 146*l.* per year; this small number of soldiers could only have been for use during peaceable times.

The Porter of the Gates, had an annual fee of 3*l.* 10*s.* In connection with these offices there were others paid at Carnarvon, as connected with the town, &c.

The two Justices of North Wales, 50*l.* each.

The Chamberlain of North Wales, 20*l.*

The Auditor of North Wales, 10*l.*

Comptroller of Pleas, Fines, &c., 12*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Attorney-General for Carnarvonshire, Merionethshire, and Anglesey, 2*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

The Surveyor of Castles, 10*l*.

Chief Forester of Snowdon, 11*l*. 8*s*.

Marshal and Keeper of the Justice House in Carnarvon, 2*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*.

Steward of the Town of Newborough, 10*l*.

Prothonotary, 3*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*,

Baron of the Exchequer of Carnarvon, 13*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*., and for the attendance at Carnarvon yearly, 2*l*.

There was a Court of Exchequer of the Prince's Revenues for North Wales, holden formerly in Carnarvon Castle, with fees, &c., allowed for the office.

The castle had natural requisites for strength, having the sea on one side, and being surrounded by a deep moat, and the estuary of the River Seiont. The situation, in many respects, was admirably adapted for the purpose. Although the Welsh were conquered, they were not subdued, and numerous were the outbreaks that continually took place. Edward, with the ability of a judicious warrior, perceived that something more was wanting to complete his power, as the Welsh were not willing to be governed by any but a chieftain of their own country. It was therefore on the ground of policy, and with a view of conciliating the Welsh people, that Queen Eleanor was sent for to Carnarvon Castle to give birth to a native prince. Great sacrifice of personal feeling for the safety of his Queen was made on this occasion, as it is asserted that she travelled in the very depth of winter; and, when residing in the castle, had not the assistance and support of her liege lord, as he was engaged in other parts of Wales.

The Queen was delivered of a son, on the 25th of April, 1284, and the infant was styled Edward, first Prince of Wales, of the English line. Edward was at that time at the castle of Rhuddlan, and the news of the event was conveyed to him by Griffith Llwyd, of Tregarnedd, in Anglesey; for this service he was knighted, and one of the manors of the Welsh Princes called Llys Dinorwic, bestowed upon him.

On receiving this news the King was overjoyed, and immediately commanded the attendance of the Welsh chieftains, who had been previously summoned to Rhuddlan Castle. He told them, that as they had frequently desired he would appoint them a sovereign, a native of Wales, he would now indulge them in their request, provided they promised obedience to the person he should name. They assented to the terms he proposed. He then informed them, that their intended Prince was born in their own country, that he could not speak a word of English, and that his life was free from every stain; that their future Prince was his own son, Edward, born in the castle of Carnarvon a few days before. Although the infant was styled Prince of Wales, he was not created so for years afterwards.

The infant was baptised by Ænian, Bishop of Bangor; and, to perpetuate the remembrance of this office, Edward bestowed upon the prelate, and his successors for ever, the ferries of Borthwen and Cadnant, two manors in the County of Anglesey, &c. The Queen, on this occasion, shewed her good sense by complying with the prejudices of the country, in having a Welsh nurse, of the name of Mary; and there is an entry in the household book of Edward II. of 20 shillings, which the King presented to her for coming from Carnarvon to London to see him.

Queen Eleanor was the first who used tapestry in England, and certainly it was never more needed than in the dreary rooms of the castle.

Sometime after her confinement the Queen removed to Conway Castle, where were assembled more persons suitable to her station; and many traces of her abode at Conway still exist. Edward, however, made the castle of Carnarvon his residence, with his Queen, for a considerable time, and held his courts there, and assembled his knights and barons to join him.

While contemplating these ruins reflection is aroused,



for doubtless every tower has its history, and every dungeon its woes, and the scene of many bloody encounters is brought to remembrance. The imagination calls up to view the various successive aspirants who have fought for the love of power, and encamped their armies around these venerable ruins. Alas! all for the spirit of ambition! pursuing objects perishable at best in a very few years, and maintained at the expense of the happiness of millions of our fellow subjects. How often have these walls rung with the merriment of song, and the enchantment of the harp. The noblest of the land have often assembled within this stronghold, and their far-famed daughters have mingled in the revelry and the dance; but how soon have these kind ties been rent asunder by the wars and tumults that arose, and the outrages that succeeded, showing how hollow, vain, and ambitious was the spirit of those times, and the fleeting tenure of human enjoyments.

While the castle was being erected, the town of Carnarvon was also enclosed within walls, fortified, and made a place of greater security. The walls of the town present much the same appearance as they did in the time of Edward; they are very entire, and are defended by numbers of round towers. No traces of their particular use remain, as they have long since been converted to modern purposes. One is now part of the Gaol, others form the Baths and Billiard-room, and the Vestry of St. Mary's Church, whilst some are used as private residences.

The walls were built remarkably strong, having large arches, at convenient distances, for their support. Several of them may now be seen on the promenade quay. There was a walk all round the town on the top of the walls; only some parts are now perfect, and the only part available for the public is by the Town Church; the rest of the walls have become private property. There were three principal entrances, one from the sea at Porth yr Aur, and

two from the mountain side, viz., Porth Mawr and the Green Gate, there was also a smaller one to the water side, by the Eagle Tower. These entrances were all well guarded by strong iron gates, having inner and outer doors, the same as the entrance to the castle; the grooves and hinges are still to be seen. The walls were enclosed all round, having no entrances but those mentioned, and were connected with the castle at Penditch. That part of the wall fell about 70 years ago, having been undermined, and otherwise injured. Before that time the only entrance into the town at that part was the Green Gate, from which the street close by takes its name. The gate is now closed up from Greengate-street, but may be seen from Hole-in-the-wall-street, which is only partly closed. This was a more lofty entrance than the others, and should be pointed out to strangers, as it is now interesting, some persons having doubted the connection of the walls with the castle, and there being no trace of them now remaining. The wall, however, existed in the memory of some persons now living; and the Green Gate could have answered no purpose if Penditch had been open as it now is.

There was a long flight of steps to the top of the walls at this part, from the inside, which the sloping decayed wall now shows. A moat surrounded the castle and the town walls. Some parts of the dry ditch have not many years been filled up.

There were several houses or palaces of antiquity within the walls, most of which are either pulled down, or modernised in accordance with the taste of the present age. One very large building in Palace-street, known by the name of Plas Mawr, or the Large Palace, belonged to Wm. Griffith, Esq., a branch of the Vaynol and Penrhyn families, and Chamberlain of North Wales. There is a handsome monument in Llanbeblig Church to his memory. Over the door of the house were the following initials:—W. G. M. G.



In another part, J. G. M. G.: date, 1590. It contained a great number of rooms, some of them maintaining an appearance of grandeur. For many years, previous to its being pulled down, it was inhabited by various poor families and small tradesmen, and was very much out of repair. In 1830 it was pulled down, and the present spacious Market Hall erected on the site. Plas Puleston (the present Red Lion) in Palace-street, was formerly the residence of Sir Roger de Puleston, who was its first owner, and a distinguished favourite of Edward I. It is uncertain what office he held in Carnarvon, besides Constable of the Castle; but he was Sheriff and Keeper of the County of Anglesey, and Sheriff of Carnarvonshire, with a yearly salary of 40*l.*, in 1284. He was afterwards appointed to levy the subsidy for the French war, viz., a fifteenth of all moveables, a tax quite new to the Welsh, and resisted by them. This tax became so obnoxious that they took up arms, and hanged Sir Roger and several of his people from the loop holes of the castle, in 1294, and afterwards cut off his head.

At Porth yr Aur there was a very ancient mansion inhabited by Edmund Griffith, of Penrhyn, whose sister, Agnes, was married to Sir Rowland Brittaneye, Constable of Carnarvon Castle. It occupied a large space of ground, and was the property of the Lloyds, of Maes y Porth. The great bulk of it is now pulled down, and its site converted into a slate yard. There are many traces of its antiquity, of its old door ways, &c.

Plas Isa was another ancient residence, belonging to the Coed Helen family: Plas Bowman and Plas Llanwnda, also, in Castle-street, long the residence of Richard Garnons, Esq.

Glanrafon is a very old house in Castle-street, noted for having an old building behind it, which was a chapel, probably, in connection with the garrison. It

must, also, have been a burying place, as several human bones were discovered in digging the foundation of the houses in connection with it. One of the houses erected on the site has now an ancient mutilated figure in front.

Plas Spicer, in Church-street, is another, belonging to a gentleman of that name, who held an office in the Exchequer, of 50*l.* per annum. His daughter-in-law married Meredith ap Ievan ap Robert, Cesail Gyfarch, ancestor of Sir John Wynne, who was born at Crug, near Carnarvon, and was a Justice of the Peace, in the first commission after the new ordinance of Wales.

It may be proper to mention, that every large house was formerly designated Plas or Palace; there were but few, and all of them inhabited by families of distinction, who kept a free and open house, which was the usual custom in those days.

The Old Town Hall was a very old-fashioned building; it was out of repair for many years, and quite unfit for use; it was, eventually, pulled down, and the present meat market erected in its stead.

The Pentice Court was formerly in a large house at the foot of the present Pen'rallt, and at the top of Turf-square. The square is known to this day by the name of Pendist, a corruption of the word Pentice. The name of Turf-square is but of modern date, so called in consequence of its being formerly the place where turf was deposited in heaps and sold.

The Exchequer Office was, where the present Town Hall is, over Porth Mawr. It was rebuilt in the year 1767, and converted into a Town Hall at the joint expense of Sir W. Wynne and Sir John Wynne, Barts. It was at one time occupied by the Escheator of North Wales. The Prothonotary and Clerk of the Peace Offices were, formerly, (next the County Hall,) part of the building, being composed of the Old Town Walls.

There were ten streets within the walls, of which High-street was the principal, and always contained the handsomest shops.

During the time the castle was erecting, and while the town was being fortified, Edward took occasion to gratify his nobility, and to amuse or flatter his new subjects, by holding a Round Table, in imitation of King Arthur. This festival was first commenced on the mountains of Snowdon, and, afterwards, adjourned to Nefyn, a large plain in former days, but now a respectable sea-port village, twenty miles from Carnarvon, in the neighbourhood of Pwllheli. The company was large and distinguished; for not only the chief nobility of England, but numbers from foreign parts, graced the festival with their presence. It lasted several days, with dance and tournament. This diversion being ended, Edward made a progress through Cardigan, to settle the affairs of South Wales; thence he returned to London, after an absence of nearly three years.

On the 8th September, 1286, a charter was granted, at Flint, to the Borough of Carnarvon, and endowed with great privileges.

It enacted, that "our men of the town" should be free burgesses; that the Constable of the Castle be Mayor; and that two Bailiffs be elected from among the burgesses on the feast of St. Michael's, yearly.

That the burgesses shall have their free prison in the town, and not be subject to the county or gaol prison in the castle, except in cases of murder, and not then if they can find sufficient bail.

That the borough land be free from warren and forest laws, and that no one but a burgess trade in the town, and that the Sheriffs of the County have no power to arrest.

That they shall have a Guild Hall, with a Hanse,\*

\* A Society of Merchants, endowed with many large privileges.



and that if any villain of any one, shall have remained in the town, and held land, and paid scott and lott with the same men during one year and a day, without challenge, thenceforth he shall not be demanded again by his lord, but remain a free man in the same town; and that no burgesses shall be convicted by any stranger, for offences laid against them, in the County of Carnarvon, that is, from the waters of the Conway to the waters of the Dovey, nor arrested for debt.

It was also enacted that the same burgesses shall have soc and sac, toll, and theame, and infantheffe, and that they be free throughout all our dominions, as well in England as elsewhere, of toll, lastage, and passage, murage, pontage, and from stallage, danegeld,\* and all other customs and exaction.

That their estate, dying intestate, be not confiscated, but their heirs to have the same.

On the death of Alphonso, the eldest son of King Edward, 1284, the young prince Edward became heir to the English crown. When this fact became known to the Welsh, it appears to have severed the connecting link that bound them together; and the motive

\* 1. *Soc*.—A liberty of Jurisdiction, with power of holding a Court of Tenants, whose Tenure is called *Socage*.

2. *Sac*.—A Royalty or Privilege touching a Plea or Correction of Trespases within a Manor.

3. *Toll*.—Firstly, Liberty to buy and sell within the precincts of a Manor. Secondly, a Tribute or Custom paid for Passage, &c. &c.

4. *Theame*.—A Royalty granted by the King's Charter, to the Lord of a Manor for the serving, restraining, and judging Bondmen, &c. &c.

5. *Infantheffe*.—A Privilege or Liberty granted to Lords of certain Manors to judge any Thief taken within their Fee.

6. *Passage*.—Hire that a man pays for being transported over Sea or over any River.

7. *Murage*.—Toll levied for the building or repairing of Public Walls.

8. *Pontage*.—A Contribution towards the maintenance or re-edifying Bridges.

9. *Stallage*.—Money paid for pitching Stalls in Fairs and Markets, or the right of doing so.

10. *Danegeld*.—A Tribute laid on our Saxon Ancestors by the Danes, of 12 pence upon every Hide of Land.



for union having ceased, every part of the newly subdued state again fell into disorder; several small outbreaks ensued, the principal one under Rhys ab Meredydd, who was successful for a time, taking the castles of Llandovery and Dynevwr, and setting fire to several towns. This war was prolonged about five years, when Rhys was taken prisoner, and executed at York.

After the termination of this war, Edward made an experiment of taxation on his new subjects, and appointed Roger de Puleston to collect a fifteenth of their moveables. The spirit of the Welsh was set on fire wherever this tax was attempted to be enforced. Three insurrections sprang up in Wales in consequence, and nearly at the same time, one under Maelgwm Vychan, at Pembroke and Cardigan, and at Glamorgan, under a chieftain of the name of Morgan, in North Wales. The insurrection was headed by Madoc, an illegitimate son of Llewelyn, in 1294, who had assumed the title of prince. The revolt opened with acts, marking the deeply exasperated spirit of the Welsh,—Sir Roger was seized and executed, with several of his associates, at Carnarvon Castle; and, on the occasion of a great fair at Carnarvon, Madoc rushed upon the English, who were unarmed, and they were all inhumanly slaughtered; the town was plundered and set on fire, and the castle taken; the fortress of Snowdon was also secured, and possession of Anglesey gained.

In all probability Carnarvon Castle suffered considerably at this time, if not partly burnt in connection with the town. The vindictive spirit of the Welsh would be likely to revenge itself on a building erected for the sole purpose of maintaining the English power.

This widely spread insurrection caused the King of England to recall his forces, intended to embark for

the continent, and depute the Earl of Denbigh to advance before him into Wales. This nobleman, while advancing under the walls of the castle of Denbigh, was suddenly encountered by the Welsh, who, encouraged by the situation of the English army, were desirous of hazarding their fortunes upon the issue of a single battle. The event was glorious to the Welsh; the English forces were defeated and obliged to retire. On hearing of the defeat, Edward instantly marched to Conway, and, retiring into the castle, waited the remainder of his army. In his passage, he lost many waggons, loaded with victuals, which had been intercepted by the Welsh, and a sudden rise in the Conway prevented his troops passing that river. He was therefore reduced to great want of provisions, and surrounded on every side by water and the enemy. The distress of the garrison was so great, with respect to provisions, that Edward, in common with the soldiers, was obliged to eat salted meat and the coarse bread that was found in the castle, and to use water for his drink mixed with honey. Only one single flagon of wine remained in the fortress, which the King ordered to be mixed with water, and distributed among the garrison, declaring, with a manly spirit, that in time of necessity all things should be common. Edward's good fortune, however, attended him; the Conway suddenly subsiding, his forces were enabled to cross the water and come to his relief. The Welsh then abandoned the siege, and the English King passed the Christmas holidays without molestation in the castle of Conway.

Edward, afterwards, crossed over the Menai into Anglesey, and erected the castle of Beaumaris, as a check to the natives of that island. At this time Madoc had retired into a place of security. Edward laid the country more open by cutting roads through the woods; and, having severely punished

those persons who had been concerned in the murder of Roger de Puleston, he retired with his army into England.

After the departure of Edward, Madoc invaded the English border, and, in an engagement on Mynydd Digoll, near Montgomery, he was defeated and taken prisoner. He was immediately sent to London and doomed, by Edward, to perpetual imprisonment in the Tower.

On this disaster, all the Welsh chieftains laid down their arms and submitted to the English monarch, whose conduct on this occasion was politic, and tempered with lenity. No victim was sacrificed to the severity of his justice; he gave to the heirs of the rebellious chieftains their forfeited estates, requiring only a compensation for the damages which he had sustained in the war, with an assurance, also, of implicit obedience for the future. He, however, assured them that should they again revolt, he would entirely exterminate their nation. Several of the nobility were sent as hostages, and were confined in the Tower of London. There now appears to have been peace in Wales for about seventeen years, until Sir Gruffydd Llwyd, indignant at the oppression and sufferings of his countrymen, commenced a revolt; he took up arms, and for a while over-ran the country. He was, however, at length subdued, taken prisoner, and after being confined some time at Rhuddlan, was beheaded.

The country after this event seems to have been in quiet possession of the English for about eighty-three years, until the rebellion of Owain Glyndwr, a descendant of Llewelyn the Great, by Eleanor his daughter, which commenced in 1400, and was the last popular effort the Welsh made to recover the freedom they had lost. Owain was educated for the law, but soon quitted it, and engaged in the tumults that agitated his country in the reign of Richard II. He



was married to Margaret, daughter of Sir David Hanmer. He was devotedly attached to the king, was created a knight, appointed scutiger of the body to that monarch, and was taken prisoner with him in Flint Castle.

During the reign of Richard II., Lord Reginald Grey de Ruthin had taken possession and claimed the hills on his side of the river, although they had long been the property of the Glyndwr family. This unjust seizure produced a suit, in which Owain obtained a restitution of his lands, and Lord Grey became his most inveterate enemy. On the ascension of Henry IV., Grey again seized the lands which had been awarded to Owain, and went as far as to misrepresent him as against his sovereign, when he was to have accompanied him against the Scots. Grey represented his absence as an act of wilful disobedience, and by these base means obtained his lands, and at the same time caused him to be proclaimed a traitor. This caused the outbreak of Glyndwr, and his first assault was through the territories of Lord Grey. He soon recovered the lands he had lost, and also took possession of a portion of the lands of his enemy. Ambition now ruled the mind of the infuriated chieftain, and he laid claim to the throne of Wales, and caused himself to be proclaimed Prince of Wales, 20th September, 1400.

Henry marched in person to repress the revolt with a formidable body of troops; but Glyndwr, whose forces were not sufficiently powerful, retreated to the hills of Snowdon, and the English king was compelled to return to England without obtaining any material advantage.

On the 30th November, 1400, the king issued a proclamation, offering to take under his protection, all Welshmen who would repair to Chester and submit to his son, Henry, Prince of Wales. Few, however, availed themselves of his clemency.



In 1401, Glyndwr marched with a good army and stationed himself in Penlimmon, and was nearly defeated. His remarkable conflict against the Flemings, at this period, was successful. The victory obtained by his military abilities added greatly to his reputation. Henry commenced a second attack in person, but was obliged to make a disgraceful retreat.

In 1402, Lord Grey raised a powerful army, and encountered Glyndwr, but was defeated and made prisoner, and afterwards liberated on payment of ten thousand marks, which sum was paid by the king, with whom he was a great favourite.

In 1402, Carnarvon Castle and Town were in the charge of Ievan ab Meredydd, and Meredydd ab Hwlkin Llwyd, of Glynllifon, under an English Captain.

There were many severe contests in 1403, in which Owain was generally successful, and in particular in the one over Sir Edward Mortimer. This Knight afterwards joined Glyndwr, and they in concert meditated a claim to the Crown of England: so confident were they of success, that they went so far as to make a division of the country between them, to prevent any after dispute.

In 1403 the castles of Wales were all in possession of Henry IV., and the castle of Carnarvon and Snowdon were confided to Sir John Chandos.

In 1404 Glyndwr formed a league with Charles of France, and re-possessioned himself of several of the castles, but did not succeed in obtaining possession of Carnarvon Castle, as it was bravely defended by Ievan ab Meredydd, and Meredydd ab Hwlkin Llwyd, of Glynllifon, and Sir John Chandos. It was blockaded for a considerable time; but Owain, finding all his efforts to take the castle fruitless, gave up the attempt, and moved his army to another part of the country. During the siege Ievan died in the castle, and his body was conveyed out by some private entrance, and

taken by sea to be buried in his parish church of Llanfihangel, near Tremadoc.

In 1405 fortune seemed to frown upon Glyndwr, and although he was not totally defeated, he suffered greatly, his son and brother Tewdur were slain, and he was obliged to conceal himself in a cave, between Conway and Abergele, known by the name of Owain's Cave to this day. He would have been totally defeated but for the assistance of Charles of France, whose forces prolonged the war.

From 1405 to 1409 no particular conflicts ensued, only that the power of Glyndwr seemed to decline. His attempts at war from this time were not worthy of any historic notice, as his followers deserted him, and he was obliged to confine himself to the hills, and act entirely on the defensive. This state of things lasted for three or four years. In 1415 the King deemed it prudent to propose terms for a cessation of hostilities, and a treaty to this effect was concluded a short time before the death of Glyndwr, on the 20th September of that year, and was afterwards ratified on the 24th February, 1416, with his son Sir Meredydd.

Owain was bold and brave, and possessed no small portion of military skill; his gallant spirit, undaunted and unsubdued to the last, achieved glorious exploits; he was, however, deeply imbued with the superstitions of his time. His exulting boast to Hotspur, that he could "call spirits from the vasty deep," is a grand display of supernatural feeling.

Shakespeare has some beautiful lines on his nativity:—

The front of heaven was full of fiery shapes;  
The goats ran from the mountains, and the herds  
Were strangely clamorous in the frightened fields.  
These signs have marked me extraordinary,  
And all the courses of my life do show  
I am not in the roll of common men.

The death of Owain closed the hostilities between

Wales and England, and was the last effort made by the Welsh to recover their freedom.

Whatever were the feelings of that age, it is well that barbarism is succeeded by a better state of things, and rapine and cruelty softened down into the arts of peace, and milder habits of civilised life. We can now unite in interest, mingle in friendship with our conquerors, and enjoy with them the same constitutional liberties.

There is no account of any wars, in the history of Carnarvon Castle, from the time of Glyndwr until the days of Oliver Cromwell. There appears to have existed perfect peace for a period of more than 200 years. The garrison at the castle was continued the whole time, but the long period of peace had, no doubt, lessened the number of soldiers, for the town and castle were easily taken by Capt. Swanby, one of Cromwell's officers, in 1644, when he took 400 prisoners, and a great quantity of arms and ammunition. It is supposed that Cromwell took away the ornaments of the castle, all the silver, brass, and lead it contained, as there are none now remaining; and his character was that of a general despoiler. It is said that he commenced pulling down the strong apartments near the Queen's Gate, but found this so difficult a task that he abandoned the idea altogether. Cromwell was the first who brought cannon to bear against the castle, and it is supposed that some of the shattered towers on the water side were defaced by his firing. The castle was soon after retaken, and Lord Byron was appointed Governor; but, on its being attacked in 1646, by General Mytton and General Langhorn, he surrendered it on honourable terms. It was then in the care of General Mytton and Col. Mason. In 1648 it was besieged by Sir John Owen; but, hearing that Col. Carter and Col. Twisselton were on their march to the place, he drew part of his forces from the place to arrest their progress. They met at



Dalar Hir, near Llandegai, where Sir John was defeated and made prisoner, with one hundred of his followers. He was imprisoned with his followers, brought to trial in Walmer Castle, and condemned to be executed, but was afterwards pardoned. He retired into Wales, where he died in 1666, and was buried at the church of Penmorfa, his native parish, where a monument still exists to his memory.

After this contest the whole of North Wales submitted to England.

The castle of Carnarvon remained afterwards in the quiet possession of the English, and no effort was again made to interfere with it on the part of the Welsh. Whatever damage it afterwards sustained was owing to the government of the English themselves. It is an extraordinary thing, but nevertheless true, that in the peaceable times of Charles II. an order was sent to Sir John Carter and Wm. Griffith, Esq., to dismantle and demolish the castle and town walls of Carnarvon, dated at Whitehall, 24th October, 1660, and signed by the King himself. The original document is now in the possession of Sir Richard Bulkeley, Bart., of Baron Hill.

To what extent this order was obeyed is uncertain; or, indeed, if the parties obeyed it at all, is not on record; it is probable that some local circumstances occurred to prevent its being carried into full effect, for certainly the walls of the castle, or those of the town, were never defaced. Whatever defacement occurred in Cromwell's time, he was evidently not the finisher of the spoliation of the castle.

There is no record when the garrison were withdrawn from the castle. In all probability they were removed at the time the order came down for the dismantling, as we have no account of them being there afterwards, and the interior of the towers shew that the floorings and roofs must have been removed many years ago.



There was a prison for malefactors of the worst kind inside the castle, but in what part cannot now be traced.

The property of Carnarvon Castle is now in the Crown. It was formerly held by the Wynns, of Glynllifon; the Bulkeleys, of Baron Hill; and the Mostyns, of Gloddaeth. The present Constable of the Castle is the Marquis of Anglesey, who has held the office, together with that Ranger of Snowdon Forest, for many years.

In 1825 a curious circular brass or mixed metal vessel, was found in one of the towers of the castle, supposed to have been a baptismal font, or, probably, a bell. It stands 7 inches high, is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches across the mouth, and weighs 26lbs., and is encircled by several fillets; on the uppermost is the date 1328, and the inscription in Roman letters GOD TE. IP. Lower down is another, highly ornamented with figures resembling griffins in the act of worshipping before altars.

The first Member of Parliament was John Puleston, the second one Robert Puleston, descendants of their relative Sir Roger de Puleston. It appears by this that the town and county were conscious of the injury done to their ancestors, and wished to do their descendants honour instead.

Carnarvon is rendered very striking by the summits of the castle towers and Coed Helen Summer House. From whatever entrance it is approached, these objects are visible at a great distance; they, together with the Menai Straits, and the Bay in the distance, form a very picturesque appearance.

Every person wishing for a view of the country should ascend Twthill, a rocky eminence behind the Uxbridge Arms Hotel, whence may be seen a pretty view of the town, the Menai Straits, Holyhead mountain, and Anglesey, the Eifl mountains, and, on the

other side, Snowdon and the adjoining mountains, towards Conway. On a clear day the mountains of Wicklow in Ireland may be seen.

A very pretty view of the town may also be obtained on the summit of the hill near Llanbeblig Church, but the most picturesue is beyond Pont Seiont on the top of the hill above Pwll-y-Gro, from or near Penbryn Seiont; a very pretty bird's eye view may also be seen from Coed Helen Summer House.

Carnarvon is decidedly the best town in North Wales, as regards its markets and conveniences; it is also the largest commercial town; its export and import trade is very considerable. Its shipping interest is very extensive. A great quantity of slates are exported annually to all parts of England, America, &c., and goods are brought twice a week by steam packet, besides regular trading vessels.

Carnarvon has the advantage of two News Rooms, each well supplied with papers. One is at the Baths, in Church-street, the other in Castle-square. There is also an extensive Circulating Library in the town, and a large Billiard-room. It has also good Bathing Machines, about half a mile out of town, where every civility will be shewn.

There are three good inns in Carnarvon,—the Uxbridge Arms Hotel, beautifully situated at the entrance to the town, the Sportsman, near the castle, and the Castle Hotel, in Castle-square,—in each place every accommodation will be afforded, and every civility shewn. The Guild Hall, in High-street, was erected over the old Exchequer Office, at the joint expense of Sir Wm. Wynn and Sir John Wynn, Bart., in 1767. It is a large room, and is used as an assembly room, and for other public meetings. Underneath is the Lockup House, and the Station of the Police. A few years ago, in opening the road under the archway to lay down the gas pipes, a dungeon was discovered here, a square

room, having no way into it but from the top, and that capable of admitting only one person; it must have been used as a secret prison.

The County Hall, where the assizes are held, is at the top of Gaol-street, and is a strong building, but not conveniently arranged inside. Over the bench is the portrait of John Garnons, Esq., formerly Prothonotary of this circuit; and in the Grand Jury Room portraits of Hugh Leycester, Esq., for many years Chief Justice of North Wales, and of Thomas Assheton Smith, Esq., of Vaynol, a gentleman who was much respected in the county.

There is also in the Grand Jury Room a handsome monument erected to the memory of Lord Bulkeley, of Baron Hill, Beaumaris, a gentleman long connected with this county, and justly esteemed for his kindness, and for his endeavours to promote the interests of the place.

Adjoining the County Hall is the Gaol, built in the year 1794, by Mr. Penson of Wrexham, but of late years much improved, and kept in excellent order by Mr. Dixon, the governor. It is a pattern of cleanliness and neatness, and is in excellent repair. The prisoners are usefully employed in making mats, &c., which are sold to the public at reasonable prices. It has a very neat chapel inside, where Divine Service is regularly performed. There are in general but few prisoners for trial, and the Judge has often to congratulate the grand jury here, as well as in other parts of Wales, on the peaceable state of the Principality.

The Market Hall is in Palace-street, a large and convenient building, erected on the site of the old "Plas Mawr," in the year 1832. The land was kindly given for the purpose by T. A. Smith, Esq., of Vaynol.

The Meat Market Hall is in Market-street, where formerly the Corn Market was held. It is a strong



square building, and conveniently arranged. The Fish Market is held close by.

The Museum is in Church-street, at the Baths, and contains many valuable relics and antiquities of Wales, also an extensive collection of minerals and geological specimens. It may be inspected on application to Mr. Morris Jones, who resides on the premises.

St. Mary's Church is a Chapel of Ease, and was formerly the garrison chapel. It was rebuilt in 1812. It is a neat building, and of late years has been much improved. It has a fine-toned organ, the gift of the Marquis of Anglesey. The service here is performed in English, morning and evening. The parish church (Llanbeblig), is about half a mile from the town, on the road towards Beddgelert. It is dedicated to St. Publicus. Richard II. granted it, and the Town Church, to the nuns of St. Mary's, in Chester. On the dissolution of the monasteries, &c., in the reign of Henry VIII., it was attached to the see of Chester, and the living is still in the gift of the Bishop of Chester. It contains no monument of notice, except one to W. Griffiths, Esq., a descendant of the Pulestons, who died 1587, and Margaret his wife, who died 1593. Their figures are in white marble, admirably carved, lying on a mat; on the sides are several small alabaster figures, evidently the work of a superior artist.

The church is in good repair; it has been much improved, and its accommodations enlarged, within the last few years. The service is always in Welsh, and is well attended. The churchyard contains many handsome tombs, and many families of distinction are buried here. Of late years a field has been added to the parish ground, kindly given by Thomas Assheton Smith, Esq. The churchyard is dear to many inhabitants of Carnarvon, as "they have many friends there," some lost to them in the bloom of youth, some in the middle stage of life, and others who had arrived



at a good old age. The custom of adorning the graves with evergreens and shrubs is very general here, as in all country places in Wales. They are not only planted on the newly raised hillocks, but are often renewed again and again.

The following pretty epitaph in the churchyard of Lougher, in Glamorganshire, is illustrative of this custom :—

The village maidens to her grave shall bring  
 Selected garlands, each returning spring ;  
 Selected sweets, in emblem of the maid  
 Who underneath this hallow'd turf is laid !  
 Like her they flourish, beauteous to the eye,  
 Like her, too soon, they languish, fade and die.

There are several large and well-built places of worship belonging to the Calvinistics, Wesleyan Methodists, Independents, Baptists, &c. The services of all these chapels are well attended, and we think we may say with perfect confidence that there are but few in Carnarvon who are not in regular attendance at either church or chapel.

The Wesleyan Methodists have an English chapel, where service is regularly performed, morning and evening.

The National School is a large handsome building, in the outskirts of the town, on the Llanberis road, and was erected in the year 1843, at a cost of nearly 3,000*l.*, raised by public subscription, aided by grants from the Committee of Council and the National Society. The ground, which is very spacious, was the gift of Mrs. and Miss Garnons. It serves as a model school for the surrounding districts, is capable of containing from 800 to 1000 children, and is exceedingly well-conducted under the able and effective management of Mr. Foster. In connection with it is a Training School; and it is but right to say, to the praise of the master, that several useful and intelligent young men have been the result of his attentions, who have

been able to take the charge of other schools in the neighbourhood.

The Infant School is opposite to the National School. It is exceedingly well attended, and under able management.

A British School has also been lately established, but no separate building has been erected for the purpose; it is at present held under the Engedi Calvinistic chapel.

A Free, or Ragged School, has recently been erected at Twthill, through the exertions of the worthy Vicar, the Rev. T. Thomas.

The Baths are in Church-street, and were erected for the benefit of the town by the Marquis of Anglesey; they are extremely well constructed, and kept in excellent order. The terms are reasonable, and the establishment is well conducted under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Jones. In connection with the Baths, is the News Room, the Billiard Room, and the Museum.

The Post Office is in Palace-street. There is a mail daily to London, and all parts of England; and one despatched to Pwllheli, Tanybwlech, and Barmouth, passing through Tre' Madoc, &c.

In the year 1820, the Eisteddfod, or Congress of Welsh Bards, was held in Carnarvon, on which occasion the Marquis of Anglesey was president. The company was exceedingly numerous from all parts of Wales. The meeting was commenced in the County Hall, but, for want of room, was afterwards adjourned to the Castle.

In the year 1831, the Castle was honoured by a visit from the Queen and the Duchess of Kent, and will be long remembered. It was through the munificence of her Royal Highness that the Infant School was commenced.

Carnarvon was made into a Bonded Port in the year 1840, by the exertions of Douglas Pennant,

Esq., the Member for the County, and W. Bulkeley Hughes, Esq., the Member for the Boroughs. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon these gentlemen for their perseverance and activity on this occasion. The benefit of the boon has been realized by many, and the advantages to the neighbouring towns is felt and appreciated. Carnarvon, from its central situation, has the means for supplying the country for many miles round. The harbour is regulated by trustees, and possesses a considerable income from dues chargeable on the vessels, and for their freights, and goods. The amount of revenue has of late been much improved by judicious management. Under the control of the Harbour Trust is an extensive Patent Slip, where vessels of any size may be repaired. The funds are expended in the improvement of the harbour, and the sea coast on the bar, by means of buoys, &c., for the advantage of the town. The Harbour Offices are on the quay, near the castle.

The shipping interest is considerable, and great quantities of slate are annually exported from the various quays in the neighbourhood, besides copper ore, &c. Several vessels trade regularly to London, and return with goods. We may here remark that Carnarvon will always be the great depôt for goods for the surrounding country, and whatever changes may take place, will always maintain its position, and continue to be the centre spot for the export and import trade.

The principal drawback to Carnarvon has been the want of a proper navigation of the Swilly Rocks. This has been a real or pretended barrier to the Steam-packets from Liverpool regularly plying to Carnarvon, and has caused them to anchor at the Menai Bridge. Much injury has been done to the town by this means, as parties have been induced to commence their routes from the Bridge and Bangor, when Carnarvon would be more central.



We hope, however, that the time is not far distant when the Swilly Rocks will be blasted, and thus the means be afforded of a direct and safe navigation, when Carnarvon, will be made the terminus of the voyage, to the benefit of all visitors.

The second meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Society was held in Carnarvon, in September, 1848, and was numerously attended, when many valuable relics, ancient books, drawings, plans, coins, &c., were exhibited.

Carnarvon possesses many advantages for residents, as regards its markets. It contains a better supply of meat, poultry, fish, vegetables, &c., than any other town, while it is, also, well supplied with butter and eggs. The regular market-day is on Saturday, and commences early, when the commodities are brought from many miles round. The Market Hall is, however, pretty well supplied on other days. The town has much increased within the last four years, and some very neat houses have been built in the suburbs, where apartments may be obtained, or a whole house rented. Several other good houses have apartments in Church-street, Segontium-terrace, Castle-square, &c.

There are good machines, also, at Alalas, for bathing; the charges are moderate, and the bathing-ground has been much improved.

The castle has lately undergone a thorough repair, and many parts are now made as they formerly existed. Great credit is due to the contractors for the very able manner in which they have executed their task. The walls are now rendered secure, and are in exact resemblance to what they were in former ages. The same kind of stone having been used, and the original order preserved, a very short time will suffice, when the weather and the atmosphere shall have effected a change, to render the new stones in appearance exactly as the old ones were, and when no traces of the new ones will appear. The castle

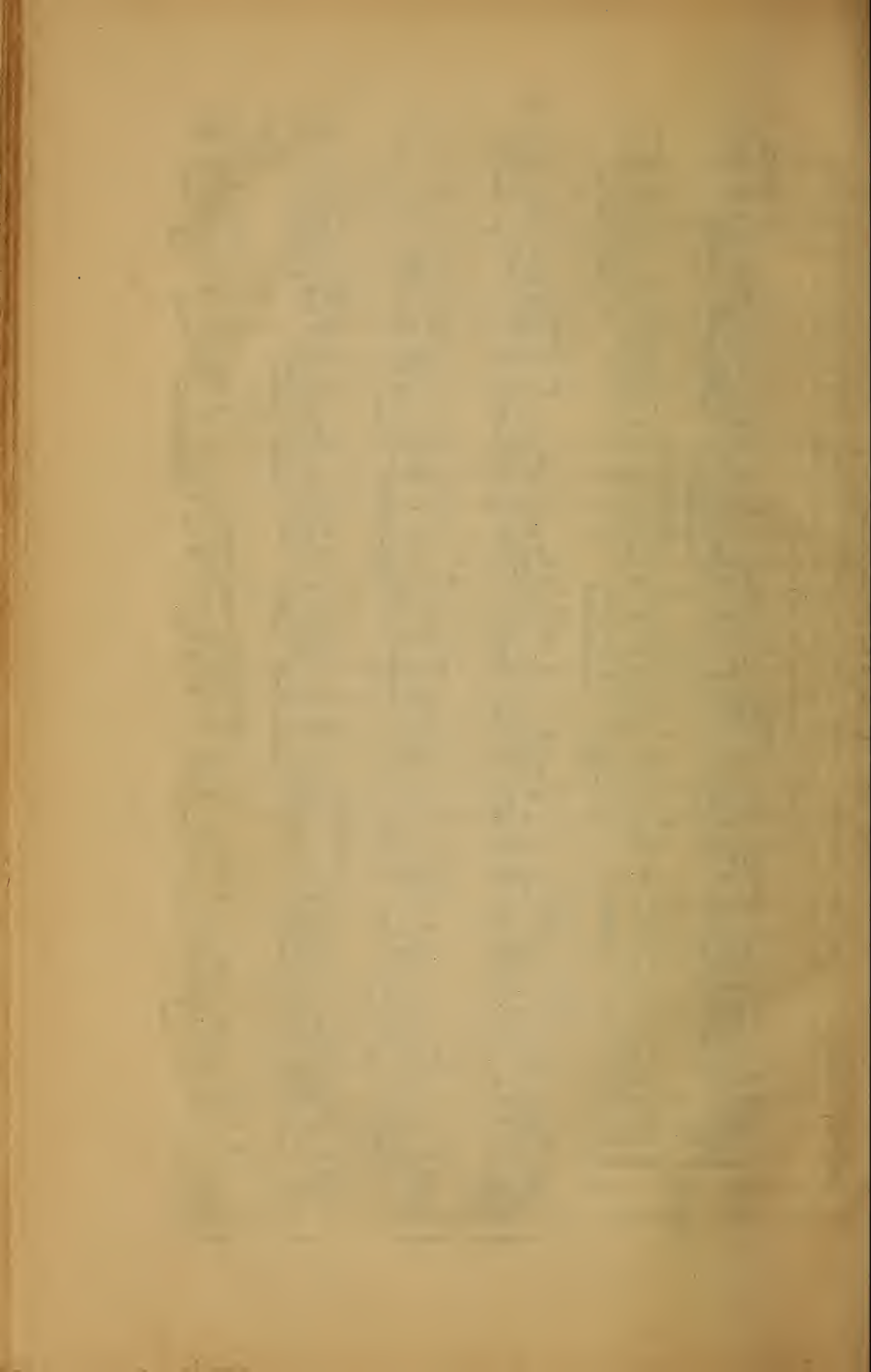


A PRIZE COMPOSITION BY MR. RICHARD ROBERTS, THE CELEBRATED WELSH HARPER OF CARNARVON;  
For which he gained a Gold Harp at the Eisteddfod, held at Denbigh, 1828, and with which he was invested by  
His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex.

*Allegro.*

1st. 2nd.

*Finis.*



has now been so far improved and repaired, that we may venture to assert, it will last for many succeeding ages, and its original character be preserved, as a monument of times long gone by.

It is to be hoped that a further sum will be eventually voted for the restoration of the stairs in the towers, and the communication between one part of the castle and the other, which is at present very imperfect, so as to restore it to something like its former splendour and grandeur.

During the alterations that took place, many interesting discoveries were made:—the existence of the well, which for many years had been doubtful, was made apparent,—several towers were cleared to their proper level,—the Mound, near Queen Eleanor's Gate, was opened, and a number of stone cannon balls, several ancient guns, a pig of lead, many Flemish coins, and fragments of earthen vessels, &c., were found. These relics are now deposited in the Museum.

The castle may be viewed at all reasonable hours, and every assistance will be given to strangers to traverse the edifice, by Mrs. Jones, who lives inside, close by the gate.

In former days many a pleasant evening has been spent at the inns, by the enlivening music of the harp, and it is to be regretted that the custom has been obliged to be discontinued, owing to the want of sufficient encouragement from parties visiting Wales. The harpers of Wales are, for the most part, poor, and unable to spare their time without being properly remunerated, and, in consequence, the inns have been deserted.

The harp, however, is still the favourite instrument of Wales, and has its celebrated performers. The best player of the present day is Mr. Richard Roberts, the blind harper, who has always lived in Carnarvon, and may be considered the first performer in Wales; he has gained several prizes. At the Eisteddfod at Denbigh,

in 1828, he gained the gold harp, and has been since that time a judge of the performance of others, not being allowed to compete owing to his superior ability. The prize composition, "Sweet Richard," for which he gained the gold harp at Denbigh, is here subjoined by his kind permission.

We may add that Mr. Roberts's services may still be engaged for enlivenment, and no visitor fond of music should omit the opportunity of witnessing his unrivalled performance. It is to be hoped that the harpers will eventually find better encouragement, and that the poet's words will prove prophetic, who sings,

"O, no! the sweet Telyn\* shall cheer us again,  
And the youth of the mountain shall dance to the strain;  
The cares that oppress us, the woes that surround,  
Shall flee far away, at the heart-easing sound,  
O'er the plain and the valley, glad plenty shall reign,  
And the harp shall be heard on thy mountains again."

The practice of singing with the harp was formerly much followed in Wales, and many of the country people were famous for their talents in this respect. This practice is now confined to the few, as fairs and weddings have ceased to have the same attractions for these customs.

Carnarvon is a desirable residence for the Angler, whence he can take his daily excursion and return; the river Seiont may be chosen as nearest the town, and good fishing may be had as far as the lakes of Llanberis. Bontnewydd river, commencing about two miles from town, up to Cwellyn lakes, will afford good sport, particularly in the Vale of Bettws, as far as Nant Mill, where very fine trout may be caught. There are other rivers at a greater distance from town well stored with fish, and winding through a pretty locality.

As several pleasant walks will be found in the suburbs of the town, we will endeavour to point them out. A good long walk may be taken on the Pwllheli

\* Telyn, the Welsh name for the harp.



road over Pont Seiont Bridge, turning to the left a little above the Turnpike, following the road to the back of Penrhos-house, and turning back at Glangwna Turnpike to town, passing Llanbeblig Church. This route will afford many pleasant and diversified views of the castle, the sea, and the country. It might also be extended by following the road past Glangwna Turnpike to the Llanberis road at Pont Rug.

Another shorter walk, but equally picturesque is along the banks of the Seiont river, passing the mills, and following the course of the river to the Beddgelert road, or turning off before you reach Pont Seiont, and passing through the fields at Llanbeblig Church. Also, a short walk past the National School, and on the Llanberis road, turning down at the gate on the left leading to Coed Mawr, and passing Maesincla, coming into the road towards Twthill. This walk may be extended further by keeping to the right towards Cae Bold, and going through the fields to the Bangor road, passing Cae Gwyn. Some parts of this walk command an extensive view of the Menai Straits and Anglesey.

The Bangor road is always a favourite walk, and commands a pretty view of the Menai Straits. A nice walk and sea breeze may be had by turning down to the New Ferry, and returning to Carnarvon along the sea shore. A short walk may be obtained by crossing the Coed Helen or the Aber Ferry, following the public road to Pont Seiont, and returning to Carnarvon; or it may be extended to Bontnewydd, a pleasant village, with a very pretty mill and waterfall, well worth seeing, particularly when the water is full in the river.

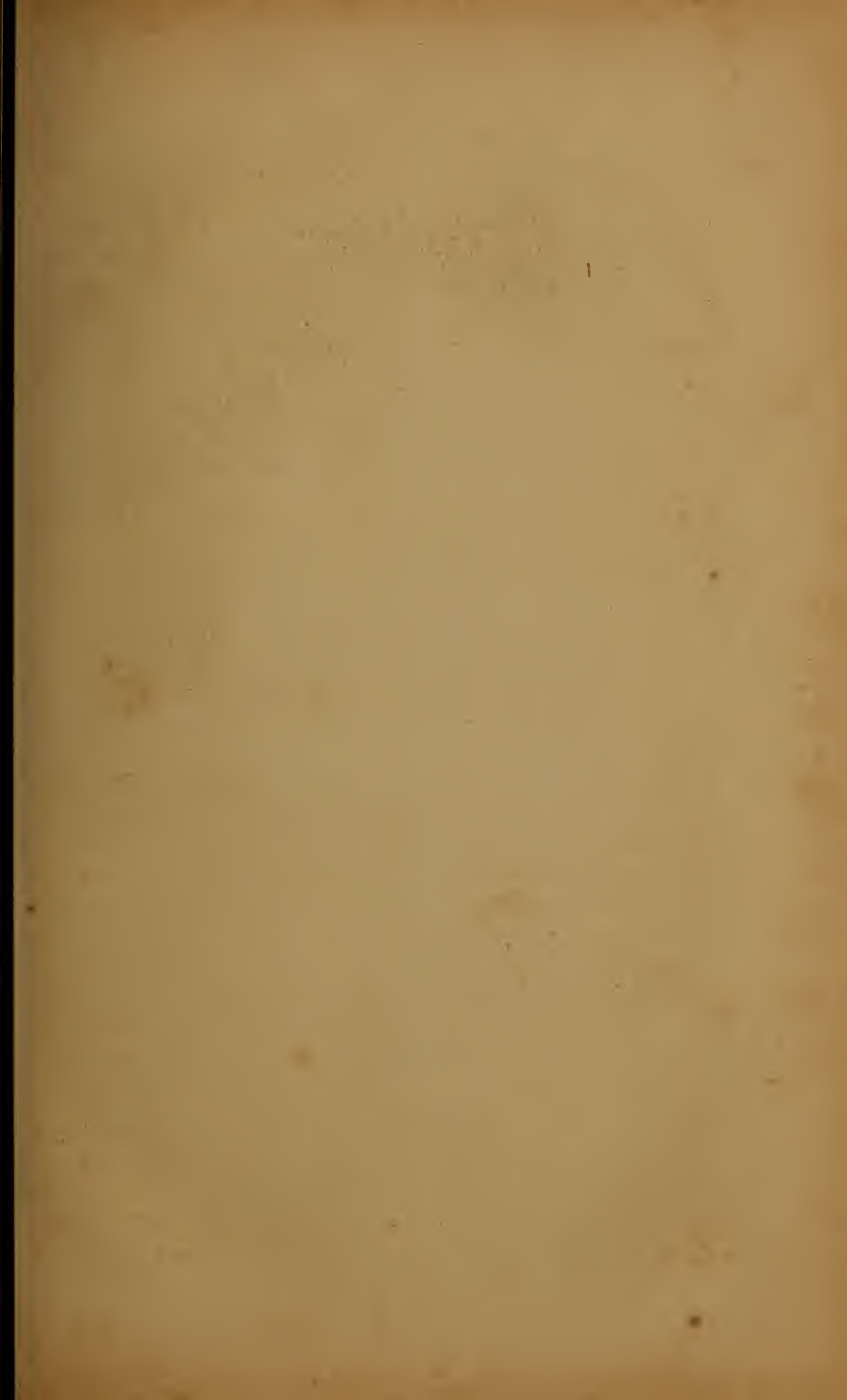
To those who are fond of the sea breeze, I would recommend crossing the Aber Ferry, and following the shore to Llanfaglan church, taking the path to the road leading to Pont Seiont, &c. Several kinds of excursions may be obtained by water to various parts. Parties may hire boats for any length of time, or to any part,

at a reasonable charge; boats being always in readiness at Porth-yr-Aur. The ferry steamer crosses to Anglesey several times in the day, at the low charge of 3*d.*; it is well worth crossing into Anglesey, for the picturesque view of the town, which is seen to great advantage, and also an extensive view of the Carnarvonshire mountains. Excursions may be made by water to Belan, a fort erected by Lord Newborough, also well worth seeing, having every appearance of a regular battery, together with moats, draw-bridge, &c. &c. This is a favourite residence and bathing place of Glynllifon family, in the summer months. An extended excursion may be made to Llanddwyn, about six miles from Carnarvon, where there is a Light House, and a Life Boat kept for the benefit of the Carnarvon Bar.

Let us go round,  
And let the sail be slack, the course be slow,  
That at our leisure, as we coast along,  
We may contemplate, and from every scene  
Receive its influence.

ROGERS.

There is at Llanddwyn much to interest the antiquarian. The remains of an old church, dedicated to St. Denwen, daughter of Brychan, formerly one of the first of its kind, and in the reign of Henry VIII., one of the richest prebends in connection with Bangor, is still to be seen. Its wealth, however, did not arise from the real fertility of the place, but from the superstition of the people—from pilgrimages to Crosses, Holy Wells, &c. The church itself was not an elegant building, nor was the prebend house, but it is noted as the residence of Richard Kyffyn, the rector, and afterwards Dean of Bangor, called the Black Dean, on account of his adherence to the House of Lancaster, and his forwarding intelligence by means of fishing vessels to the Duke of Richmond. This place was supposed formerly to have had a communication with a town opposite the village of Clynnog, in connection with the church and mo-





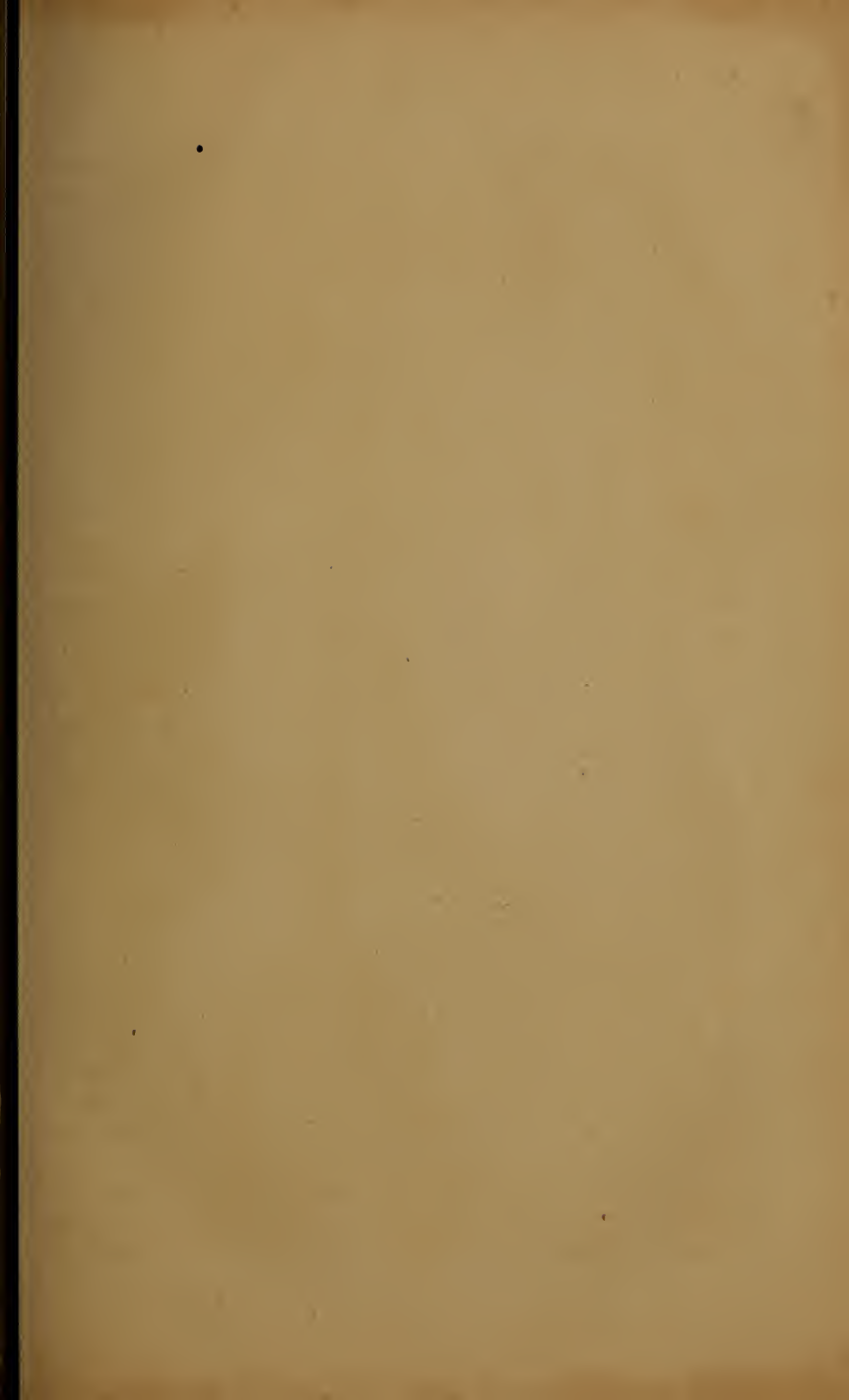
BRITANNIA BRIDGE.



nastery of that place, but which has since been overflowed by the sea.

An excursion may be made into Anglesey over Tal y Foel Ferry, to visit Newborough and Aberffraw, places of great note in former days. Newborough, which is three miles from the shore, was the manor of our princes, and the seat of justice for the whole comot of Menai, and was formerly called Rhosfair. Edward the 1st erected the town into a corporation, and gave it a guild mercatory; from that time it was called Newborough. The Crown had its steward for this district, at a salary of ten pounds a year; it was also the county town of Anglesey, until the time of Edward the 6th, when the honour was transferred to Beaumaris. It is now a small but populous village, and is celebrated for the manufacture of mats and ropes from the sea-reed grass, which are brought to Carnarvon market in great abundance. From Newborough the traveller may proceed to Plas Gwyn, the birthplace of the celebrated Rev. Henry Rowlands, the author of the *Mona Antiqua*. He was instituted to the vicarage of Llanedwen, in 1690. He died in 1721, and was interred in the south side of Llanedwen Church. Aberffraw, which is nine miles from the shore, was formerly the chief seat of our princes, and one of the three comots of justice for the Principality. Here was also kept one of the three copies of the ancient code of laws. This place was fixed on by Roderick the Great, in 870, for the residence of his successors. It continued to be a place of note till after the reign of Edward the 3rd. It is now, like Newborough, a small village, but possessed of a good inn called the Prince Llewelyn, lately erected; this place will be found a quiet retreat in the summer season, and good sport may be had at Llyn Coron close by, where the fish from the lake are excellent, but require to be quickly dressed. This place is celebrated for its cakes, called Aberffraw cakes.

Excursions may be taken down the Menai Straits as far as Beaumaris, affording the most beautiful and diversified scenery. These trips may be accomplished by means of a powerful steamer, the *Fairy*, of 60 horse power, built expressly for the station (to pass through the Swillys at all tides) with passengers to and from the Liverpool steamers. She also makes an intermediate trip daily, thus affording to parties at Beaumaris, Bangor, &c., the opportunity of visiting Carnarvon, and returning the same day. The saloon is most tastefully fitted up, and refreshments of the best description, with every accommodation, may be obtained on board. The objects to be seen are Plas Coch, Plas Newydd, Port Dinorwic, and the Swilly Rocks. Plas Coch is an antique mansion, the residence of William Bulkeley Hughes, Esq., the member for the Carnarvonshire Boroughs. It is one of the most considerable of the ancient residences of the gentry of Anglesey now extant. It was erected in the time of Queen Elizabeth, by Hugh Hughes, Esq., Attorney-General, and member for the County of Anglesey. This mansion is built of a red rock found close by, and hence derives its name. It has been lately much improved, and the interior arranged with excellent taste and judgment. Plas Newydd is the property of the Marquis of Anglesey, and formerly his residence, but is now occupied by T. A. Smith, Esq., the extensive proprietor of the Llanberis Slate Quarries, and the owner of Vaynol, an ancient residence of the family. Plas Newydd is well worth seeing; the grounds are tastefully laid out, and the mansion is beautifully shaded by an extensive wood. In the grounds are two Cromlechs near each other, in very perfect condition, and overhung by branches of a large ash tree. These Cromlechs are worth visiting, being considered the most perfect monuments of the kind in the kingdom. Above the ground on Craig y Dinas, on the side of the Holyhead road, is





No 728 Aug 23 1847

London, J. Harwood, 26, Fenchurch Street.



a beautiful column, erected in 1816, to commemorate the military services of the Marquis of Anglesey. Within the park, close by, is Druid's Lodge, the residence of J. Sanderson, Esq. It is laid out with great taste, and is beautifully situated.

In 1821 Plas Newydd was visited by George 4th, on his way to Ireland, and in 1832 by the present Queen and her illustrious mother, the Duchess of Kent. Those who have the opportunity of coming up the Menai Straits by the steam packet, will enjoy a rich treat not easily forgotten.

Port Dinorwic has been much enlarged and improved within the last few years, by the spirited proprietor, T. A. Smith, Esq. From this port the slates from his celebrated quarry at Llanberis are shipped to all parts of the kingdom.

Carnarvon should be made the residence or starting point of the tourist, to visit the principal places in the locality, as all the beautiful scenes in this county may be visited with greater ease and with better advantage, from this place than from any other. We shall suppose the tourist to be starting from Carnarvon, and give the various routes by which he may employ himself to the greatest advantage. The time spent upon each route must, of course, depend upon the stay of the tourist. The first route we shall point out is towards Beddgelert, around the mountains; and we should advise all parties to go by Nantlle Lakes and Drws y Coed, rather than by the regular post road, the former being far more picturesque and interesting. This road will commence past Pont Seiont, Pont Newydd, to Pen y Groes, turning off through the slate quarries and past the Nantlle Lakes. The slate quarries here are well worth seeing, being numerous and extensively worked. They are quite different in appearance to Mr. Pennant's quarry, and the machinery required is of another construction, as the situation of the quarries is deeper in the mountain. A great quantity of slate is

daily brought to Carnarvon for shipment along the railway.

The Valley of Nantlle is very picturesque, and the two lakes are large and of a pretty form. The slate quarries on each side, with high mountains above them, and Snowdon in the distance, form a very grand scene. From Nantlle Lakes the best and most prominent view of Snowdon is to be seen; it was from these lakes that Mr. Wilson took his celebrated view of Snowdon. It is much to be regretted that this spot is so little known to tourists. If an Inn were erected here it would soon be quite as celebrated as the one at Llanberis. Mr. Freeman observes, were I to chaperone a friend, who had never been in the country, I would bring him from Carnarvon into Nantlle. Near these lakes Edward the 1st, in the summer of 1284, resided, and from hence issued several of his edicts. The place is called Bala Deulyn, or the place where the river discharges itself into two lakes. A farm house is shewn, said to have been the royal residence, and which continued in the possession of the Welsh princes since the time of Owen Gwynedd. The road leads from the pools to Drws y Coed, where some valuable copper mines were formerly worked to great advantage. Near these mines, and on the road towards Beddgelert, is the floating island mentioned by Giraldus Cambrensis; it is somewhat difficult to approach, owing to the peat-bogs and swamps that hem it in. This pass is exceedingly grand, and very much resembles Nant Frangon in appearance, except that it is more confined, and its stupendous rocks are more terrific. On looking down the top it has the advantage of Llanberis Pass, by having the sea in the distance, which makes it more picturesque. After reaching the top of the pass, the road leads you to the regular post road of Carnarvon, within four miles of Beddgelert.

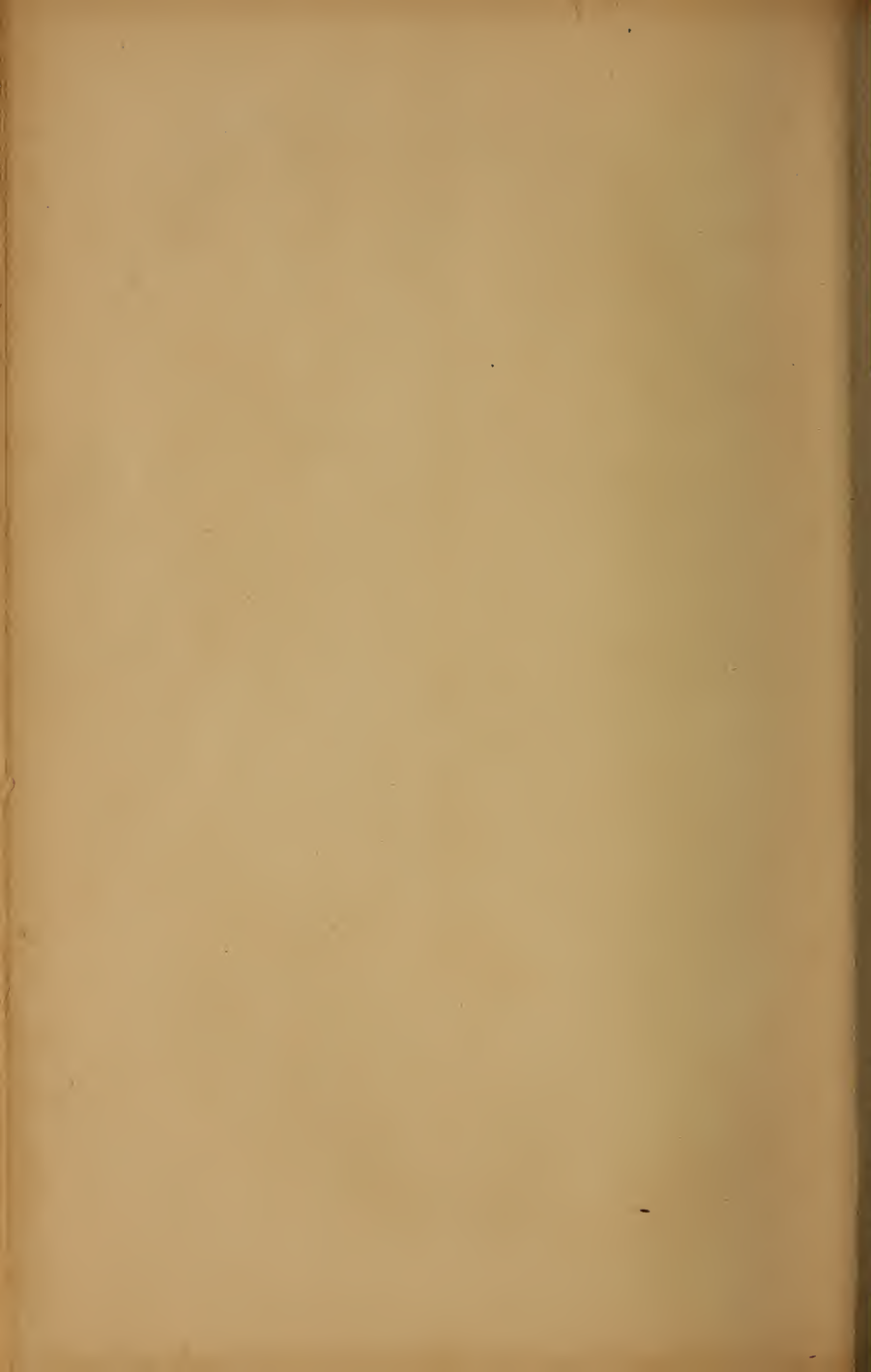
The Mail-road from Carnarvon to Beddgelert is not interesting until you reach the Vale of Bettws. Here

Nant Mill, Cornwall

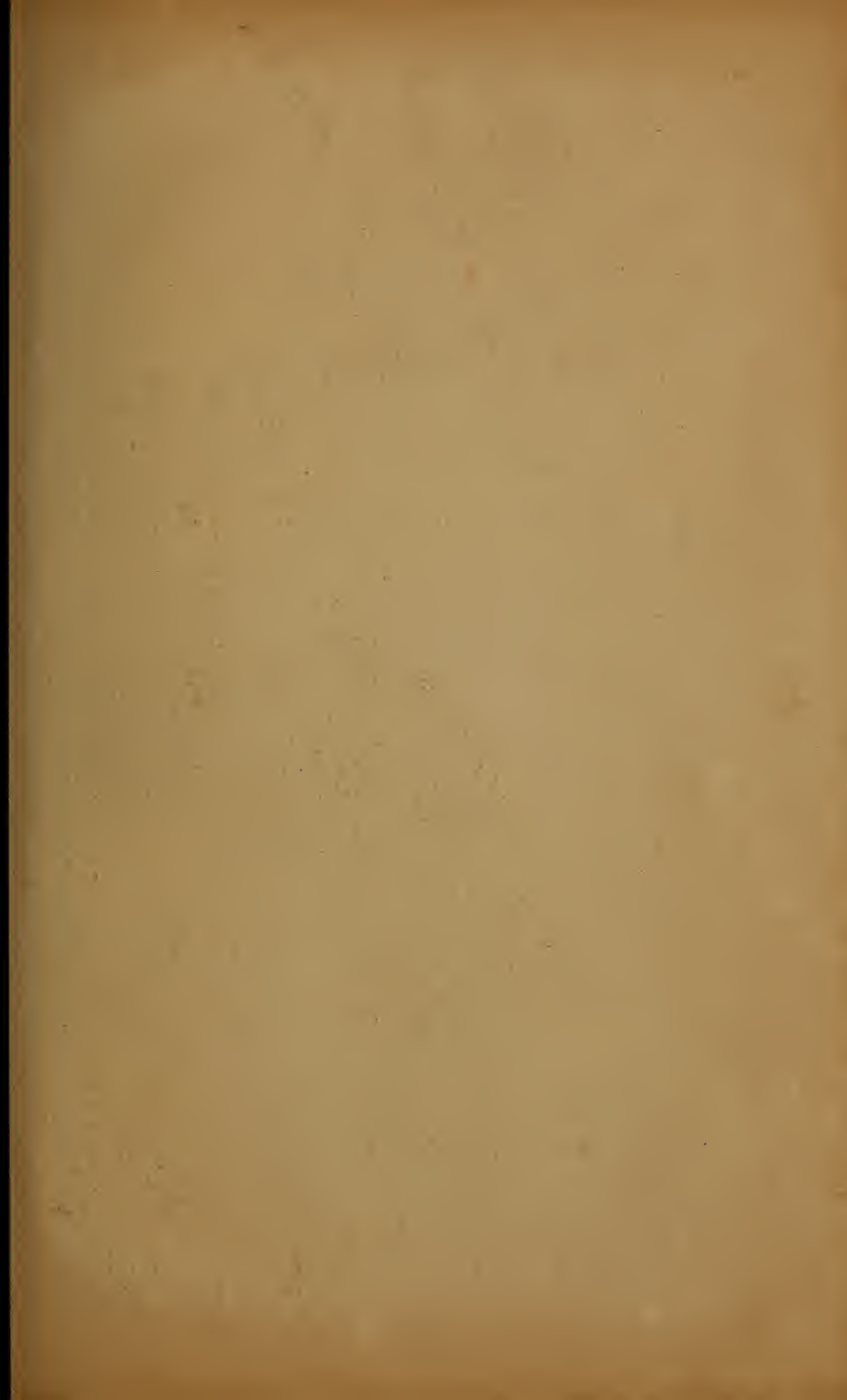


London, J. Howard, De Vere Street.

No. 132, Vol. 8, Plate 1, 1847









the church in the valley, and the sublime mountains, form a pretty scene; and further on is the beautiful cascade of Nant Mill: this is an exceedingly pretty spot, and is universally admired. The fall, however, would appear to much greater advantage were it not for the grand mountains that surround it. To view this fall to advantage, parties should depart from the road and cross the river. After passing Nant Mill, the next objects that attract notice are the Lake of Cwellyn, an excellent one for fishing, and the Mountain of Snowdon. From the road a very extensive view of Snowdon may be seen for three or four miles, and an ascent from this part is commenced from the Snowdon Guide House, about the middle of the lake, where a guide may be obtained. This ascent is considered the shortest, but is in some places very steep; the road is, however, good, and those who wish to ascend one side, and return by the other to Llanberis, will be gratified by the diversified scenes that surround them. The next object of interest is a remarkable stone, close to the road side, rudely formed by nature, but representing a perfect resemblance to the late William Pitt; from this circumstance it has been called Pitt's Head. The profile is only visible from the road from Carnarvon to Beddgelert; the other side of the stone possesses no interest.

### BEDDGELERT

Is a pretty village, surrounded by mountains and trees, forming a delightful retreat, and a change from wild and boundless sterility to happy and beautiful repose. It is much frequented in the summer season, and contains an excellent Inn, ably conducted, with every accommodation, and good fishing. This village is celebrated as being the place where Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, killed his faithful greyhound, called Gelert,



hence Beddgelert (Gelert's grave). The spot is shewn, consisting of a few stones in a meadow, railed round, where the grave is said to exist,—a pleasing meditation, whether true or not:—

“The remains of famed Gelert, so faithful and good,  
The bounds of the cantrey conceal—  
Whenever the doe or the stag he pursued,  
His master was sure of a meal.”

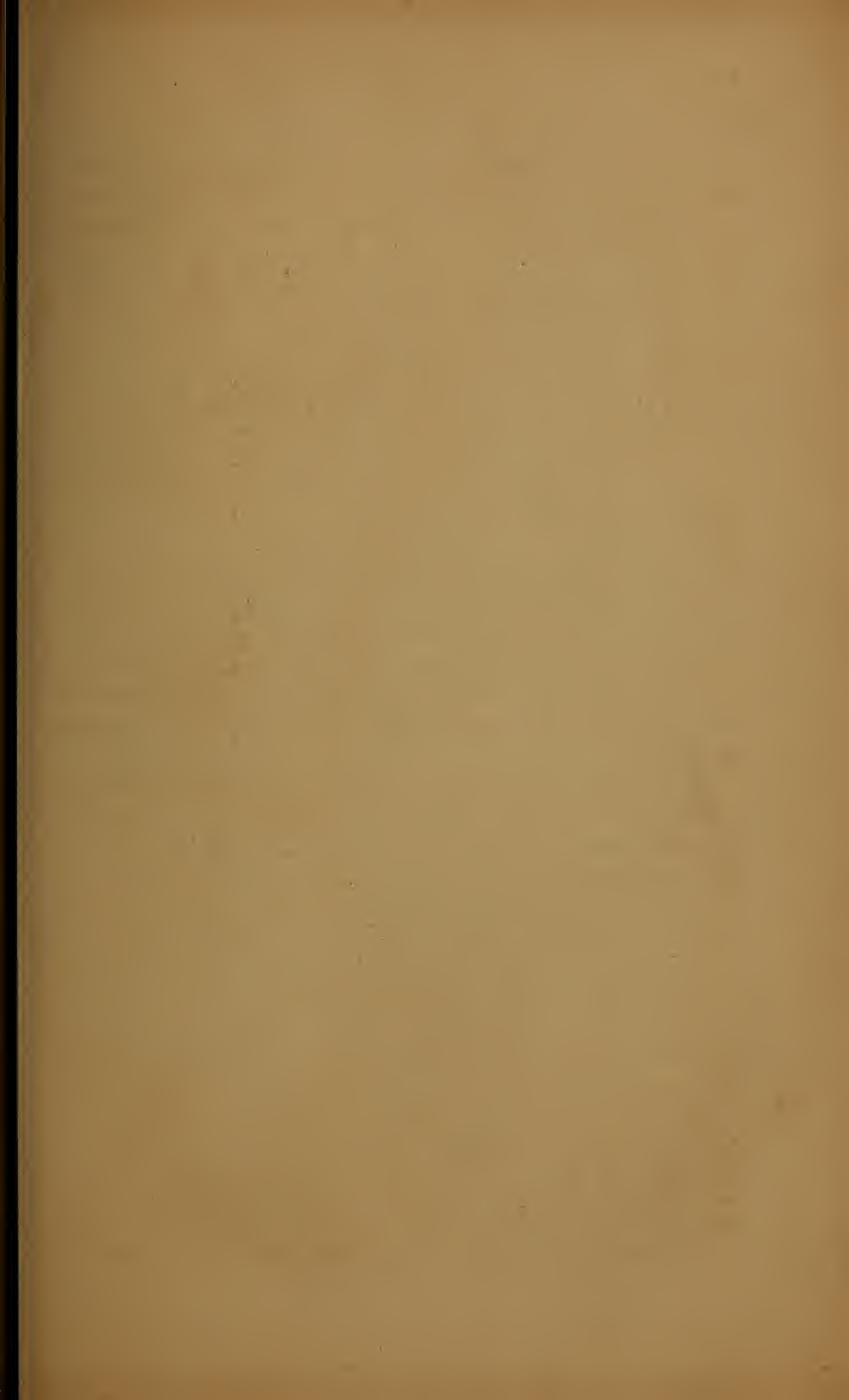
The story has been extremely well told in a poem by the Hon. W. R. Spencer, which is too long for insertion here. The subject continues to be interesting, and most travellers, and every sentimental young damsel, visits the spot.

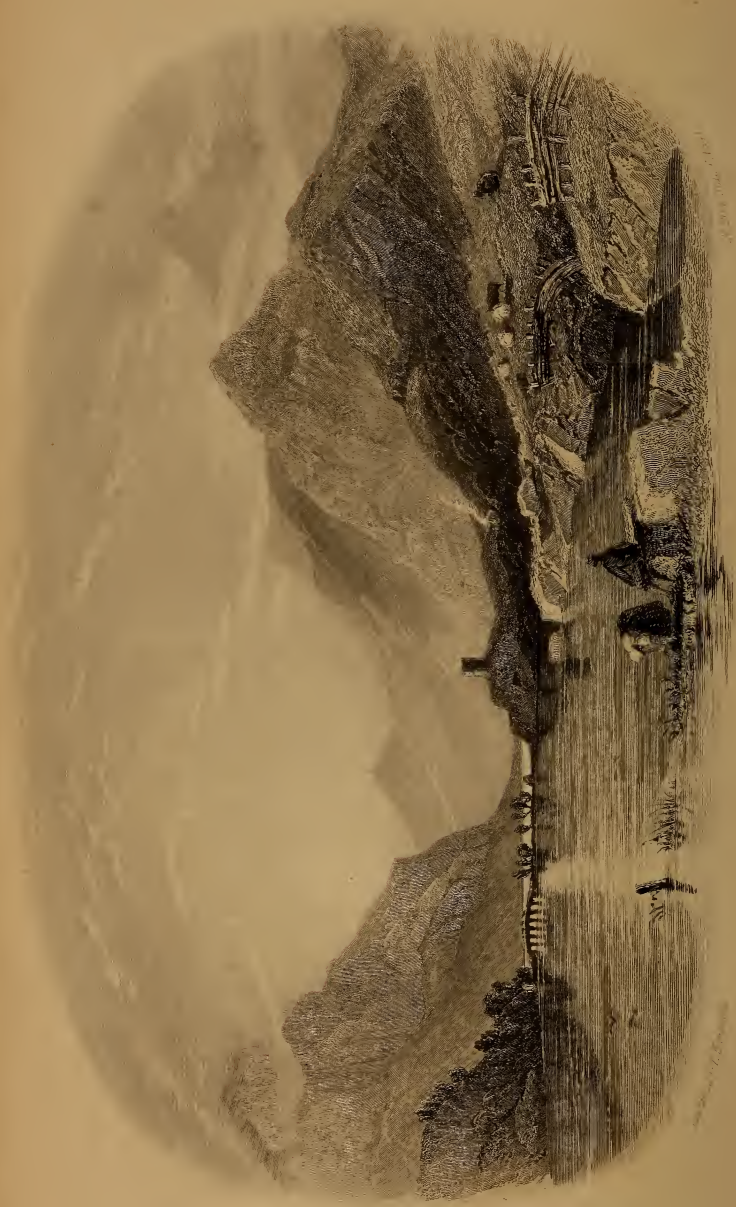
“And till great Snowdon's rocks grow old,  
And cease the storm to brave,  
The consecrated spot shall hold  
The name of Gelert grave.”

The church is a pretty structure, dedicated to St. Mary, and was conventual. It is supposed to be the most ancient foundation in the country, except Bardsey.

The tourist may here obtain a guide to Snowdon, and ponies can be hired for the journey. The celebrated Pass of Aberglaslyn is about a mile and a half from the Inn, and should be visited by all tourists. It is decidedly the finest mountain pass in the Principality. From Beddgelert the route may be continued to Tre' Madoc, Port Madoc, and over the celebrated embankment to the Vale of Festiniog. This will form a delightful journey; the scenery all the way is remarkably pretty and interesting. The direct road back towards Carnarvon will be through the Pass of Nant Gwynant,—the most picturesque and sublime spot in Wales. In this place there is everything to interest the traveller. The view throughout is diversified, and varying at every mile, and contains two beautiful lakes. This vale has been called the Vale of Waters, and is about six miles in length. It pre-







*Snowdon, and the Lake of Harbours.*

sents some of the finest views of Snowdon, the peak of which towers above all the other mountains, and is to be seen almost all along the vale under different aspects. No tourist should omit this excursion, if possible.

Behind, thou fair Llyn Gwynant! with thy smile,  
Of quenchless beauty, and thy mellow'd shade  
Of deepening purple, softening the defile  
With hues of living joy that never fade.

WILKINSON.

When the top of the vale is gained, the journey may be continued to Capel Curig for the night, or a return effected down the Pass of Llanberis to Carnarvon.

The next route we shall point out is from Carnarvon to

## LLANBERIS,

A place of exceeding beauty and grandeur, a distance of eight miles, along a good road. For the first three miles after leaving Carnarvon, there is nothing particularly attractive, but afterwards, on the opening mountain view, about Cwm-y-Glo, the mountain scenery is grand beyond description. We would advise all travellers to get out of the vehicle at the Turnpike, take a look down the lake, and make a survey of the mountains: the scene is beautiful.

At Llanberis there are two Hotels,—the largest, the Victoria, was built by Mr. Smith, for the good of that part of the country. It is an excellent establishment, with every accommodation, and is capable of entertaining a great number of visitors. The other is the Dolbadarn Hotel—a smaller house, but well conducted, and where a great many may be accommodated. Both inns, we are happy to say, are well attended during the summer months.

Llanberis is the celebrated spot for the ascent of

Snowdon, and the road up is picturesque in the extreme. The route has been described by many; and, for a description of Snowdon, we need only refer the reader to the various guide books published, as they contain a full account of the ascent of various travellers. One piece of advice however, we will give, and that is that the traveller start early, that he may enjoy a clear view, and save himself some fatigue from the heat of the mid-day sun. We would also suggest the hire of a pony, either for each traveller, or one between two, to ride and tie, as the ascent is tedious, and rather too long to walk the whole distance without great fatigue. We may add that ponies may be hired here such as are accustomed to the mountains.

There is an exceedingly pretty waterfall at Llanberis, well worth seeing; a new road has lately been made to it for the convenience of visitors. This fall differs from any in Wales in its character as to size, but its beauty consists in its form, which, after a rainy season, is seen to great advantage.

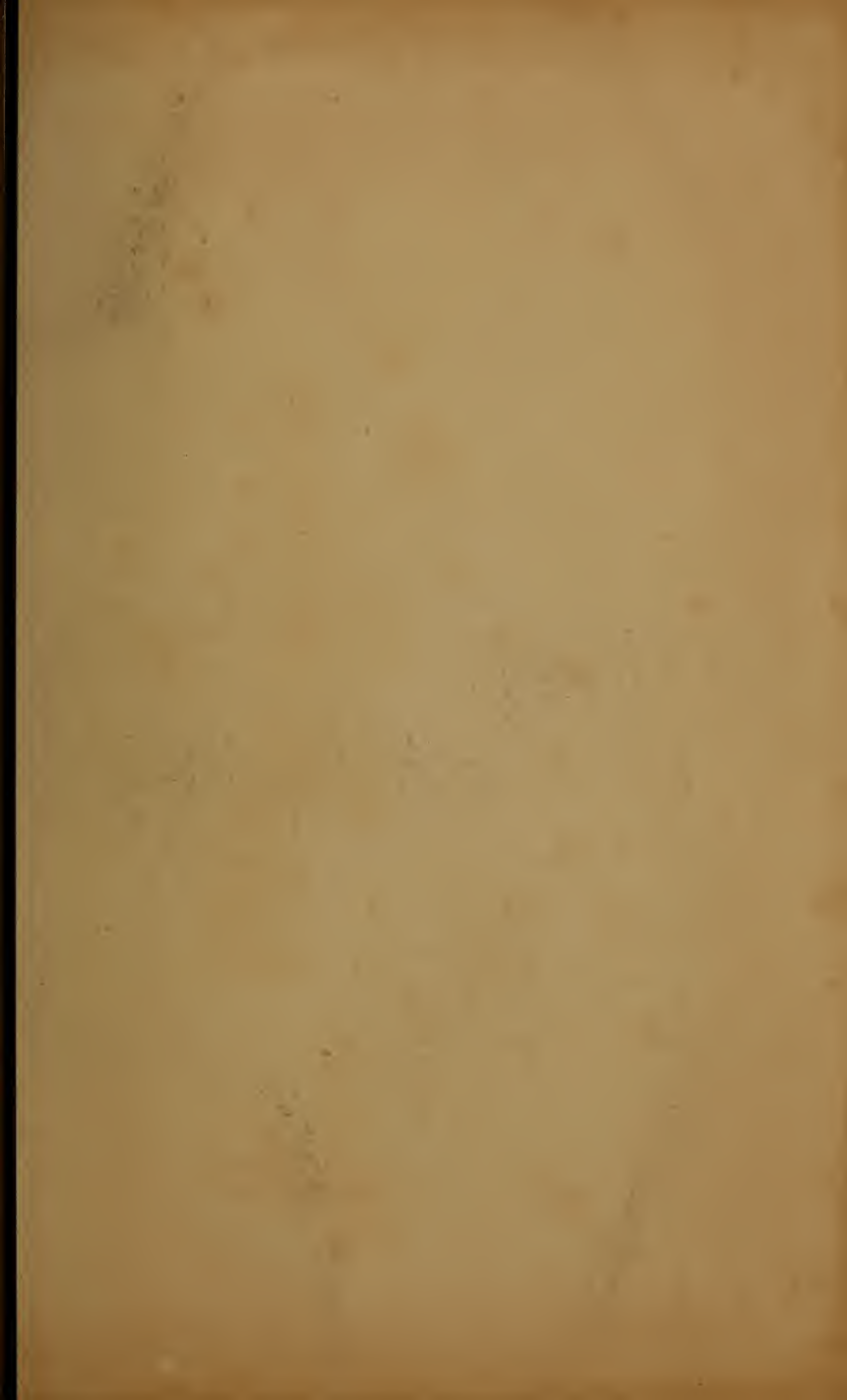
The slate quarries are well worth every traveller's attention, and the view from the top of the quarries alone is sufficient to repay any exertions made. These quarries, like all others near Carnarvon, are differently constructed to those of Mr. Pennant's, and, consequently, afford scope to another kind of machinery.

The scenery about Llanberis is so grand and diversified that it is impossible to describe it. It must be seen to be properly appreciated. An excursion may be made hence over the mountains to Nant Frangon, Llyn Idwal, &c., by means of ponies.

Dolbadarn Castle is an object of interest from its previous history, and its ruins cannot fail to be contemplated with delight. It is a romantic tower, and, from its elevated position above the lakes, is seen from a great distance.

On departing from Llanberis towards Capel Curig,







Engraved by W. H. Woodcut, 1850.

St. Louis, Mo. 1850.

you traverse the celebrated Pass, which is considered one of the principal beauties of Wales. Its scenery is magnificent, and cannot fail to create a peculiar interest and admiration. The village of Llanberis is at the foot of the Pass, and the Church close by is a pleasing object, reclining, as it were, on the side of the mountain. On reaching the top of the Pass, you have an extensive view of the Vale of Gwynant for many miles, and Snowdon is seen to great advantage. The tourist may here take the road towards Beddgelert, or the straight road to Capel Curig. The latter we have now to describe—the route from Beddgelert to Llanberis having been previously mentioned.

Capel Curig is situate amidst mighty mountains, contains an excellent Inn, and has a large lake, out of which flows the river Lugwy, which forms the cataract of the Swallow Fall. From this point a beautiful view of the mountains is obtained, and Snowdon is very conspicuous. The distance to ascend Snowdon is about nine miles, and although the ascent is very sublime and picturesque, it is far more tedious and irksome than either that of Llanberis or Beddgelert. To those tourists who have strong nerves, and can bear fatigue, it may prove interesting; but, generally speaking, the ascent from the other points is preferred. When at Capel Curig, the tourist should not omit to ascend Moel Shiabod, a mountain which rises some 2,800 feet above Capel Curig. A journey to the top will amply repay the exertion. From Capel Curig the tourist may proceed on the Shrewsbury road towards Llangollen, or return through Nant Frangon to Bangor.

The next excursion we shall name is from Carnarvon to the Eifl Mountains, &c. The route commences over Pont Seiont, and passes the pretty village of Bontnewydd and Glynllifon Park. The tourist should visit Dinas Dinlle, a Roman encampment, about six miles distant; it is near the sea, and at high tides the

waters comes entirely up to it. The fort was of a circular form, and about 400 feet in diameter. On all sides, except towards the sea, it was defended by a deep fosse, five or six yards wide. The principal entrance was on the east side. Within are remains of foundations of buildings, of an oblong form, constructed with earth and round stones. This was a commanding station, and from its elevated position no doubt was a point of observation communicating with other Roman forts, previously mentioned.

The next place of importance is the pretty village of Clynnog, a romantic spot, rising above an elevated level between the sea and the mountains, and containing an excellent beach for bathing. This is a retired spot, possessing a good Inn, at which comfortable accommodation may be had. The church is the most magnificent structure in Wales, built in the form of a cross, in the Gothic style, and some of the windows are of painted glass. This church was evidently formerly a cathedral; the interior arrangements have every appearance of its having been such. Adjoining the church is a small Gothic building, called Capel Beuno (the Chapel of Beuno), supposed to have been originally founded about the year 616. This Welsh saint was the son of one of the Kings of Powys, and uncle to Winefred, the celebrated virgin of Holywell. He is said to be interred in the chapel. In the south-east corner of the church, near the altar table, is an old wooden chest, bolted with iron, and fastened to the floor, called Cyff Beuno (Beuno's Chest), where the offerings of persons affected with any disorders were deposited. The chapel is now used as a school-room. The monuments in the church are few, and of no particular interest.

About half a mile distant, on Bachwen Farm, near the sea, is a remarkable Cromlech, and near the church on the road to Pwllheli, is St. Beuno's Well, which was much famed for its healing qualities. In the mountain, about two miles distant, is a pretty water-



fall, called Rhaiadr Dibyn Mawr, which should be visited.

From Clynnog proceed to the village of Llanael-haiarn, where there is a well, formerly famous for its healing qualities. From this village you ascend the Eifl Mountains, which are sometimes called The Rivals, as though one peak rivalled another. Across the hollow of these mountains extends an immense rampart of stones, the ruins of a wall which effectually blocked up the pass. On these mountains are the most perfect and magnificent British posts called Tre'r Caeri, or the Town of the Fortresses. The accessible side was defended by three walls; the lowest is very imperfect, the next tolerably entire, and has in it the grand entrance. The facings of the two upper walls are very entire; the whole is almost filled with cells. To be seen to advantage, the station should be taken from the summit, about which the cells are very distinct, and are mostly perfect, of various forms—round, oval, oblong, and square. The round ones were fifteen feet in diameter; the oblong, thirty feet in length, with long entrances, regularly faced with stone. All of them, when inhabited, were well protected from the weather by roofs of thatch or sod. From hence descend into Nant Gwytherin, or Vortigern's Valley, the last retreat and burial place of Vortigern, King of the Britons, who fled here from the rage of his subjects, about the years 465. Some years ago a stone coffin was found by digging, which contained the bones of a tall man, supposed to be the remains of this unfortunate king. This valley is open to the sea, but is hemmed in on every side by steep barren mountains. It is inhabited by about three families; with one of whom lived a remarkable dwarf for many years, who was an object of great curiosity, and attracted many visitors to the spot. The writer of these pages saw him in 1845, and never beheld an object of greater curiosity; he was then about sixty years of age, he died in 1846. Hence you may proceed to Nevin and Porthdynllaen,

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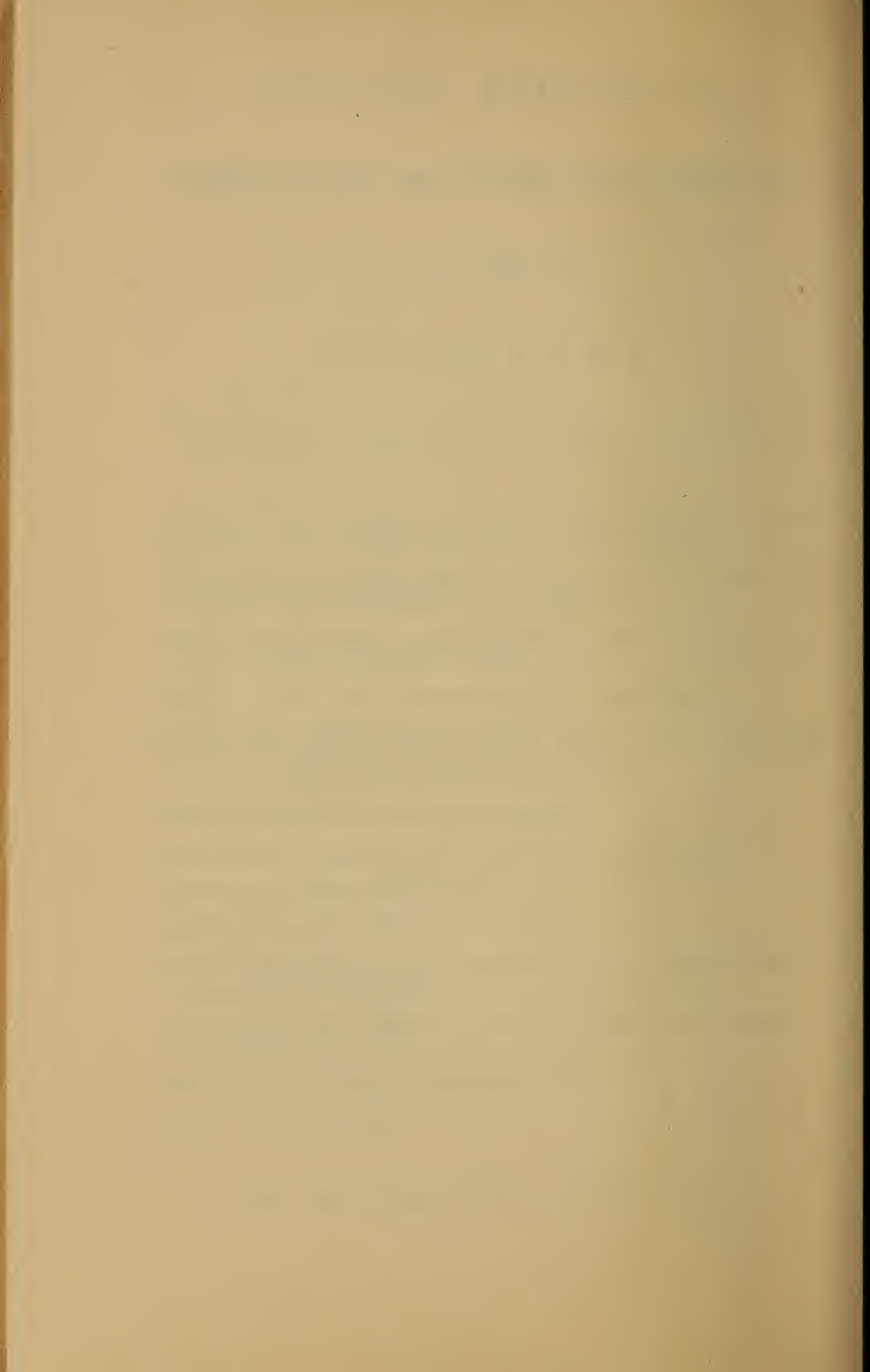
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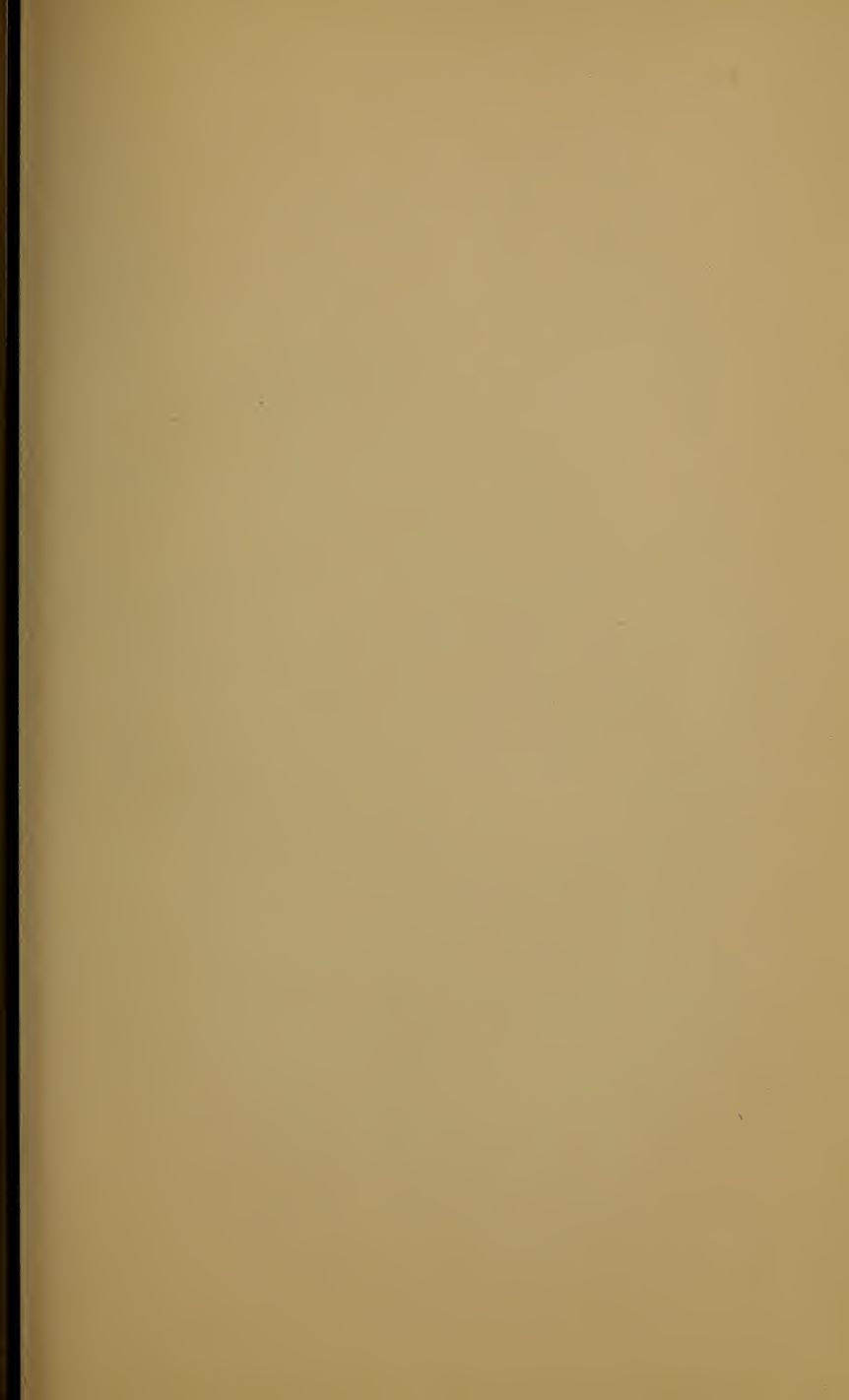
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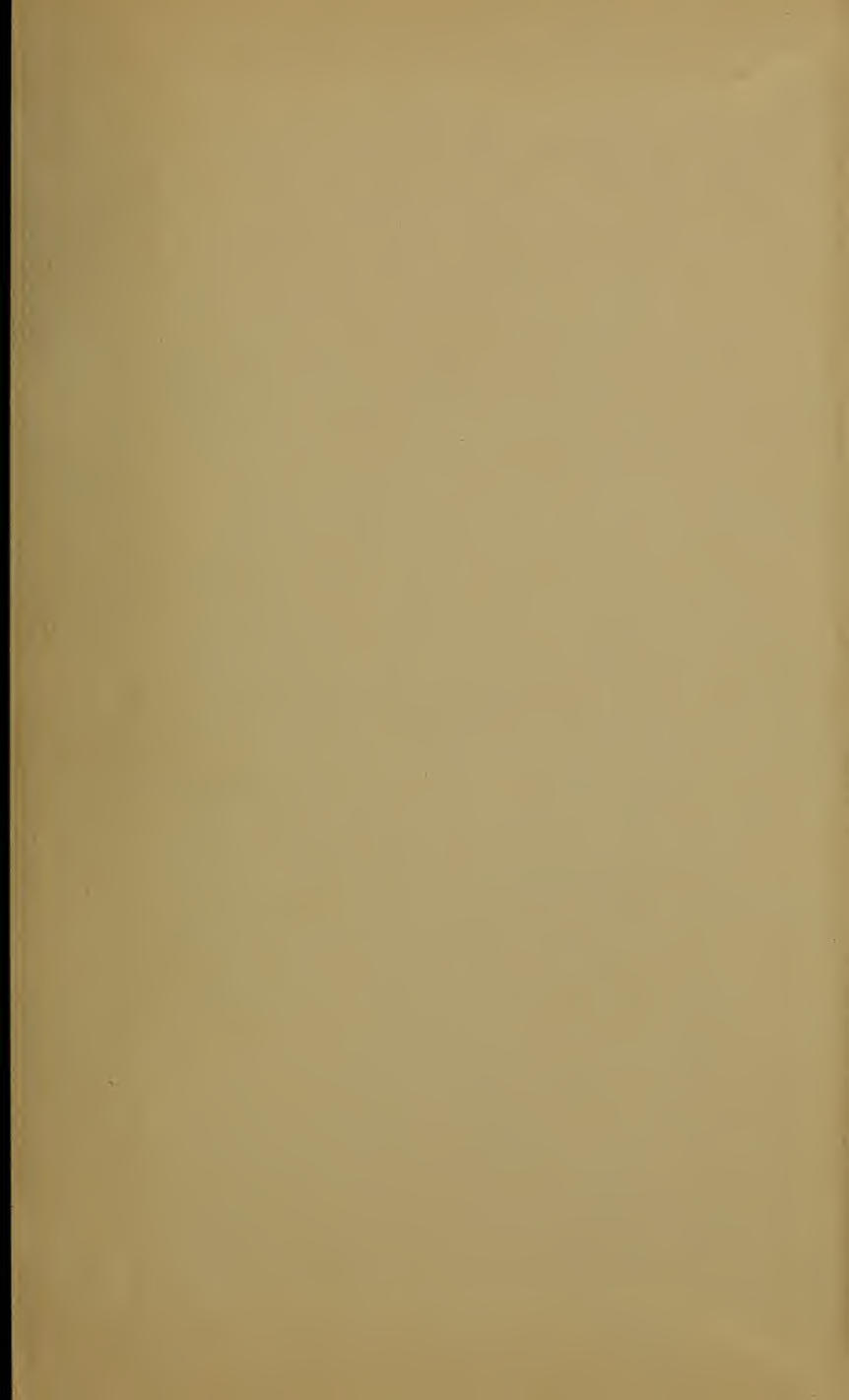












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